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**LEGION**

COMMANDER'S  
TESTIMONY  
P. 38

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

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The Magazine for a Strong America

Vol. 129, No. 6

December 1990

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THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its 3 million members. These military-service veterans, working through 16,000 community-level posts, dedicate themselves to God and country and traditional American values; strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans, their widows and orphans; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youths.



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## Fair Value

In response to the "High Cost of Blame" (December 1989) and the "Gospel of Greed" (October 1990), I offer the following suggestion: In seeking damages from another party, one should not recover more than one can pay. For example, the person who believes he is adequately protecting himself and others by carrying minimum auto liability of \$20,000 should be prohibited from seeking more than \$20,000 in damages if he were injured in an accident. When he purchased his coverage, he decided no one else was worth more than \$20,000. If today's litigants looked at what they are willing to pay, it would be a much fairer world.

Daniel J. Van Antwerp  
Mobile, Ala.

## Money Puzzle

I'd like to know why the \$40 million study of Agent Orange wasn't completed by the so-called competent Centers for Disease Control. I have a copy of the court transcript that states the seven chemical companies named in a class-action suit settled out of court in May 1984 for \$180 million. My question is did the government take the money and run or will the money eventually be distributed to deserving Vietnam veterans?

Robert D. Moore Sr.  
Meadowview, Va.

*Editor's note: The funds of the class-action suit have been distributed, both to the signers of the suit, and in the form of grants to aid veterans and their families who may be suffering from the effects of Agent Orange. The American Legion Vietnam Veteran Family Assistance Program is a recipient of one of these grants.*

## Social Ills

As a family physician practicing in a small, central Kansas community, I congratulate you on your article, "Death of Rural Hospitals" (October 1990). As our society wallows in consumerism, and savings are a thing of the past, rural doctors and hospitals have learned how little they can rely on uninsured individuals to be prepared for

medical bills. Self-pay means a write-off. Because more and more workers just can't find it in them to properly save for health-care expenses, this will have to be forced on them by either taxation or mandatory employer payroll deductions. All individuals should be expected to contribute to health-care services they receive, same as for law enforcement, utilities and streets.

Roger R. Tobias, M.D.  
Lyons, Kan.

What a sad situation our health-care system has evolved into. As late as the middle '70s and early '80s, the quality of health care in our country was more than adequate. Health insurance was still easily affordable to most working people. I hope sometime soon, we as a nation, can rebuild the system like it was 20 years ago. Something doesn't seem to be working in the last decade like it should. Just what in the world has happened?

Loren G. Flaugh  
Archer, Iowa

## Prudent Jury

I read with interest "Reading the Minds of the Jury" (September 1990) by Jordan E. Cohn, and I could not help but wonder how less often juries would vote to convict if they were routinely informed of their privilege, and some say duty, of judging the law as well as the facts.

Vic Humeniuk  
Waynesville, N.C.

## Dis-Oriented

I am writing about the article by Steve Salerno, "Can We Compete With Japan?" (October 1990). The article is shallow and inaccurate in its historical accounts. It reminds me of the Japanese tour guide on the Bullet train from Tokyo who proclaimed that television was invented by the Japanese. I didn't correct him because it was his train. This is my magazine for which I earned the right to subscribe, so I feel an obligation to challenge. With its inaccuracies and obvious style, the article seems like propaganda. It's easy to

imagine (whether or not true) that Mr. Salerno has benefited from the Japanese largess in preparing the article, in addition to what you may have paid him. If so, fie on Mr. Salerno.

James M. Wetzel  
Lake Bluff, Ill.

U.S. citizens don't seem to realize that we send our dollars and many good jobs overseas. The auto industry is a glaring example. Thirty-five percent of the new cars purchased in the United States are foreign made. I believe every concerned citizen, both political parties, unions and management should inform the American public just what their appetite for foreign products is doing to the U.S. economy. When you buy foreign products no corporate tax or personal income tax is paid to the U.S. Treasury or Social Security fund. One of life's biggest ironies is a bumper sticker "America, love it or leave it" on a foreign car.

Keith H. Ongman  
Fairmount, Ill.

## The Greedies

I want to put my two cents worth in on Rep. Henry Hyde's statement (*Big Issues*, October 1990) that representative government would be lost if our elected members of the House and Senate were limited to 12 years in Congress. Once the greedies get elected, they forget who put them in office. They remind us of house guests saying they want to visit for only a few days, then stay for two, three or more months. What we have in both houses of government these days are "congressgreedies" who are interested only in grabbing as much loot as possible.

Our House and Senate members seem to believe that the public should be happy with the crumbs while they live high on the hog. Congressmen should have to retire on small retirement funds and set an example. For members of both houses to believe they deserve longer terms in office and compare themselves with our founding fathers is an insult. Many of those folk lost everything to get us what we have now.

Broadus A. Culberson Jr.  
Asheville, N.C.

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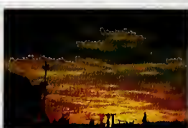
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## SHOULD COMPUTER RECORDS BE RESTRICTED?

**I**N THE August issue of *THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE*, we asked readers to respond to the question: Access to, and use of, computer records about you and other consumers has become increasingly easy. Should stricter controls on the use of consumers' computer records be imposed? Of those who responded, 84 percent stated that stricter controls should be imposed because loosely controlled consumers' records allow invasion of privacy. Some in the majority also wrote that mistakes by computer-run credit bureaus could seriously damage credit ratings. Too much junk mail and illegal access and use of records were also reasons those in the majority said stricter controls should be imposed.

Of the 16 percent who said there shouldn't be stricter controls, many claimed the benefits of having easily accessible credit information far outweigh the few mistakes made by credit bureaus and other agencies that use consumers' computer records. Also, some wrote that if errors are made, there are ways to correct mistakes.

*Respondents' views are excerpted below.*

.....

Credit bureaus are very cavalier in providing data about you which has not been verified, is totally incorrect, and is derogatory in nature. Incorrect data can migrate to other data bases through automated interfaces and can be used without your knowledge throughout your life. To add insult to injury, if a credit bureau provides incorrect and derogatory data to a potential creditor, and you inform the credit bureau that the data is incorrect, they have the gall to insist you prove they are wrong.

I suggest legislation be passed which requires every data base that provides personal information to provide written notification to any person when derogatory information is present in the file.

In addition, the on-line query system allows subscribers access to anyone's file, whether it be for legitimate business or mere curiosity. Big Brother is closer than you think.

*Arthur J. Staub  
Newburg, Pa.*

After spending 37 years with a credit bureau company, I found this bureau to be extremely sensitive to the type of infor-

mation handled, who was to receive it, and the purpose of its use. When an error occurred, it was promptly rectified.

Millions of people receive insurance, at a fair price, because of information supplied by credit bureaus. Millions of mortgages and other loans were processed promptly because of the credit information available. The few incidents of mishandled information pales in comparison to the tremendous benefits of easily available information about credit, insurance and employment.

*William L. Cirone  
Seneca Falls, N.Y.*

There should definitely be tighter controls and closed loopholes on credit information records. Credit information should not be used for employment purposes at all. Lists from credit bureaus should not be sold, either.

*Sanford W. Cramer III  
Garden Grove, Calif.*

Because we have the legal right to review our records, we can correct any errors. Credit bureaus are a benefit. I am

a landlord, and I check with a credit bureau before renting to anyone. I do not examine how much anyone owes, but how the bills are paid. If prospective tenants pay their bills on time, that means the house will not have a lot of damage when they live there. Good tenants are worth money. Credit checks are good for the renters and good for us. I do not ask for a deposit when a prospective tenant pays his bills on time.

*Thomas W. Prince  
Piqua, Ohio*

I don't believe the whole world should know my personal business. They say there are laws to protect a person's privacy; where are they? I get too much junk mail. I am against anyone knowing my personal affairs, because if I wanted everyone to know, I'd tell them myself.

*Frances M. Graffeo  
Franklin, La.*

The Fair Credit Reporting Act has helped provide for a strong and workable credit system for the benefit of consumers and creditors. Credit reporting agencies do not destroy credit ratings. Credit reporting agencies simply report your credit history. If anyone destroys credit ratings, it is the consumer, because the consumer creates that history.

*Edward H. Radigan  
Olean, N.Y.*

Without strict controls, I am convinced that the rapid developments in computer technology will subject Americans to future intrusions upon privacy we cannot now imagine.

*G.D. Rooker  
Barefoot Bay, Fla.*

Another problem is that no computer data is safe from hackers. Any information illegally obtained for profit should be treated like any theft and punished accordingly, regardless of whether the thief is a magazine looking for a story or

*Please turn page*

# High Blood Pressure Can Now Be Lowered

ARE circulation problems affecting your health? ☐ Cholesterol?  
☐ Clogged arteries? ☐ Too many triglycerides? ☐ Leg cramps?  
☐ High blood pressure? ☐ Numbness or tingling? (See below):

**D**rugs often don't work—but the hidden truths found in this ad could change your life.

You see, doctors now say that more than HALF of the Americans who have high blood pressure are *unaware* of it.

It's true. High blood pressure IS an odd problem. It is not a normal human condition. *Ever*. And blood pressure drugs will *not* cure it and seem to cause unsafe side effects. But, I have found the answers.

## SECRETS IN THIS BOOK

The answers in this book, which firmly link circulatory problems to human diseases, offer all of us new hope. One University test has already found that 85.3% of victims could actually lower their blood pressure in a special way, without any drugs. And cholesterol levels dropped 26%. Triglycerides, too.

Good blood circulation, this book reveals, should reach *every* portion of your body for optimum health. Accept as an iron-clad fact that a lowered blood pressure will offer you a longer life expectancy.

## GET UNREPORTED DISCOVERIES

- The one needed food in the body—which should be 200% more than the other food.
- Many younger people now have high blood pressure. 66% of folks between 65 and 74 have it. Past age 75, it's 3 of 4. *Unnecessarily*.
- Salt is not the only villain. At all. Why it affects some—not others.
- Toxic metal poisoning can be a cause. Here's a test to find out.
- How HBP can ruin your sex life. What to do.
- 9 home tests you can use to detect upcoming circulatory problems.
- 1 of 2 Americans have a danger zone cholesterol level.
- Many cardiovascular medicines . . . plus aspirin, laxatives, caffeine, sleeping pills, and some diets can deplete critical nutrients. The book has a list.
- 3 *best* forms of exercise to alleviate high blood pressure.

- The one unsuspected food which makes blood pressure shoot up.
- Why relieving blood pressure so often helps with hemorrhoids, appendicitis, colon cancer . . . and helps weight loss.
- What 156/84 actually means. (Do you know?)
- "Miracle foods" which counteract even salt.

## NOTICE TO READERS WHO WANT TO ACT TO SAVE THEIR OWN LIFE

People are funny. They may say they know their blood pressure is too high, but when encouraged to try our book "The SECRETS To Control HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE" at our risk, they sometimes hesitate and shake their heads.

Well, doctors say your risk of developing heart ailments is SIX TIMES AS LIKELY if you leave high blood pressure undiagnosed and untreated. The chances of diabetes are 63% greater—a stroke is 400% more likely. High blood pressure can otherwise continue to damage blood vessels, a leading cause of hardening of the arteries.

This book contains many new breakthroughs: *Rutgers University*. Boston University Medical Center. *Pritiken Longevity Center*. American Heart Ass'n. *The Seventh Day Adventist Church*. Central Institute for Cardiovascular Research. *Chinese folk herbalists*. Mayo Foundation. *The Australian Medical Ass'n*. Maryland School of Medicine. All have put forth many of the discoveries revealed in this timely book.

## ARE CIRCULATORY PROBLEMS ENDANGERING YOUR HEALTH?

If you can lick a stamp, you can lick high blood pressure once and for all. And if your blood pressure ever again becomes a problem once you learn these secrets—and I mean *EVER*—you haven't lost a dime. Merely return the book for a full, every-penny-back refund.

Every day we see people who are aging too fast—because of this condition. The

grim warnings of the American Heart Ass'n., the Surgeon General, and dieticians just seem to fall on deaf ears. Well, you need not be a victim.

## GUARANTEED TO WORK—OR MONEY REFUNDED

Listen to that little voice inside you. Just this once, give in to your common sense and give this book a try. Watch these secrets automatically work for you in a way that really counts . . . *lower blood pressure*. (And cholesterol, etc.). Without risking a cent.

I know exactly what you may be thinking, right now. You're quite intrigued, but skeptical. Or think maybe if you're affected already by high blood pressure, it'll somehow vanish away by itself. *Never happens*.

Here is the help . . . in plain, step-by-step language . . . in a book which anyone can use to begin to normalize blood pressure. **GUARANTEED**.

## FREE BONUS with order

Order today. You'll also receive "*Cleanse Your Own Arteries and Feel 25 Years Younger*" as your Free Gift just for trying our "blood pressure" secrets book.

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American Surveys, Dept. 337-A,  
Box 1030, Manchaca, TX 78652.

O.K.—I'll take a risk-free look. Here's my \$12.95, plus \$2.00 handling & postage. Rush "*The SECRETS to Control HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE*". After following your program, if my blood pressure ever becomes a health problem again, I can return the book for a full refund. **GUARANTEED**.

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## OPINIONS

an employer looking for data to which he is not entitled.

*Michael Cohn  
New York*

Unless people have something to hide, why should they object to credit records being available?

*M.C. McGowen  
Baird, Texas*

Many readily available public records contain information similar to credit bureaus. It is almost useless to try to stop the use of computers for this purpose, so why bother trying to keep anything secret?

*Voris O. Callaway  
Del City, Okla.*

Stricter controls on the use of consumers' records should be imposed. Except during criminal investigations, credit bureaus should obtain a written release from the persons involved before information is released.

*Calvin Miller  
Mansfield, Ohio*

I believe stricter controls are needed in use of computer records because of the massive amounts of junk mail we receive. I sometimes believe the post office encourages this kind of mail. Also, I believe it would be a good idea if the person being checked were notified who is seeking the information. I'd like to know who's checking on me.

*E.G. Honomichl  
Tucson, Ariz.*

No one can string a thread of decency through the consumer computer mess. However, to deal with unwanted junk mail, I just return the empty postage-paid envelope and let the solicitor pay the postage. Sometimes I send the envelope back with a sheet of toilet tissue. Perhaps if more of us followed this practice, the solicitors would get off our backs.

*T.A. Feucht  
Indianapolis*

# WE NEED YOU

*He who leaves no trace  
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The **WORLD WAR II BOOK** would like to trace each and every **AMERICAN** who served overseas in any military capacity during **WORLD WAR II**. Our aim is to create a record available to all to have and to pass on to future generations.

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Information on Americans who made the supreme sacrifice while serving abroad or who are no longer with us, may be submitted by their respective family.

Anecdotes, photos and brief stories of interesting or unusual centre of activity will be welcome for possible inclusion.

Leave a trace and show the world that you or someone dear to you has participated in the brave and noble action that restored the world to dignity and freedom and brought an end to **WORLD WAR II**.

## MY RESPONSE

(if needed make a copy)

*Yes, I want to leave a trace and show that I served the cause of peace abroad during WWII.  
Enclosed is my picture (ID size - old or recent) and necessary information to document my place in History.*

MY  
PHOTO

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# LEGIONNAIRES HAVE A ROLE IN HELPING GIs AND THEIR FAMILIES

**I** WAS in between visits to Legion Departments when the letter arrived at National Headquarters. The distinctive red and blue hatches on the border of the envelope bore the tell-tale sign that the letter had traveled a long distance. I opened the letter and began to read.

"Dear Sir: I'm currently in Saudi Arabia with the 82nd Airborne Division, C. Co., 4-325th Airborne Infantry—America's Guard of Honor. I was deployed the first day of the invasion of Kuwait and sent here to protect and defend key points of interest to the United States and the world. Our first thought was that we were going to parachute into Kuwait and go up against Hussein's army. Our intelligence warned that he had eight times the troop strength that we did. We knew a lot of us would not make it back if hostilities began.

"I was in Grenada in 1983 and in Panama last year. All of the men I trained and fought with were proud to be Americans and do their duty. And I'm proud of all of you who supported us every inch of the way. Your support makes it that much easier for those of us who must leave their loved ones and do a job that no one in his right mind would ever want to do. But we do it, just as you did, for all Americans. . . ."

Sgt. Michael Harger's letter further described his pride in being an American and his private thoughts about the family he left behind.

As I write this, I am preparing to travel and meet with American GIs in Saudi Arabia. Other Legion leaders will accompany me, and we will be briefed on the ongoing "Operation Desert Shield."

Legionnaires always have been especially willing to roll up their sleeves and help our servicemen and their families



*Nat'l Cmdr. Robert S. Turner*

during tense times. During World War II, Korea and the Vietnam War many of our Posts had outreach programs to assist families in need. As Sgt. Harger says in his letter, it makes it easier for those in uniform to do their jobs when they know that folks back home are helping the families they left behind.

That's why I was pleased to unveil the Family Support Network of The American Legion, a nationwide program to assist, when requested, the families of regular active duty personnel, National Guardsmen and Reservists who were activated and are deployed in the Mideast. By dialing a special toll-free telephone number—1-800-786-0901—families are often just moments away from receiving the help they need. Such assistance might range from home maintenance to finding part-time jobs for spouses left behind (see story, page 40).

The vital link in this important program is you. Many of you might be called through the network to help or lend your special talents to ensure that these families are helped. I know I can

count on you to do your part.

All of us who have served remember one of the most important times of the day. Mail call brought us news from home and reminded us that our families and friends were thinking of us. Some of us even received a letter or note from a stranger who wished us well and expressed his pride. Here again, Legionnaires can show their support by writing encouraging words to our troops in Saudi Arabia. It only takes a few moments of your time, but it will leave an everlasting memory for some service person far from home (see *Veterans Update*, page 36).

One bit of news that many GIs in the Mideast soon will be receiving is *THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE*. Beginning this month, 15,000 copies of each issue will be mailed to Saudi Arabia and to those serving in the Persian Gulf. It isn't the first time the magazine has been shipped overseas to our military people. During World War II, copies of a monthly "pony" issue were mailed to GIs in the Pacific, Europe and elsewhere.

We will ship the magazine to the Mideast until the crisis has been resolved and our troops return home.

I couldn't help but notice in Sgt. Harger's letter the obvious motivation and love for his country. The father of two children and a loving wife who reside near Fort Bragg, N.C., Harger, like thousands of other Americans, is standing tall during these tense and dangerous times. If he and other members read this message, I want them to know that we're proud of them and that we stand behind them in the difficult duty they face.

It is especially important during this holiday time of year—a time when we hope and pray for good will to others—that our quest for peace continues. From my family in Decatur, Ga., to yours, I wish you the best and happiest of holidays. God bless us everyone. □



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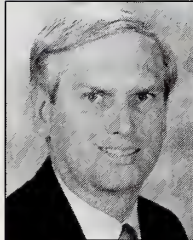
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# SHOULD CONGRESS GIVE THE PRESIDENT LINE-ITEM VETO POWER?

Rep. John J. Duncan Jr., R-Tennessee

Already the governors of 43 of our states have this power, and President Bush desperately needs it, too. I realize it is unlikely that a liberal Congress will give this right to a conservative President. Congress has been unable or unwilling, however, to bring spending under control on its own.

## YES



We need a line-item veto and a constitutional amendment requiring a balanced budget at the federal level, or we may soon drown in a sea of red ink. Congress voted recently over the objection of many conservatives to raise our national debt to about \$3.5 trillion. This is a jump from \$935 billion in 1980, an increase of more than 350 percent in years of relatively low inflation.

President Bush has submitted a budget for the coming fiscal year which calls for spending of about \$39,000 a second, every second of every day of the year.

The bureaucrats are constantly trying to get more money so that they can feel more important and powerful and so that their departments or agencies can become bigger. Very few members of Congress are willing to say "no" to anyone, because it is politically popular to say "yes" to everyone.

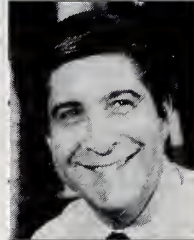
If the President had the line-item veto, he could leave the good parts in a spending measure while removing the fat—the wasteful and ridiculous expenditures found in almost every appropriations bill.

Continuing to withhold this tool from the nation's chief executive will only prolong the sort of business-as-usual, pork barrel politics partially responsible for the ballooning budget deficits with which we in the Congress continue to contend. The line-item veto will not surrender congressional responsibility in the budget process. Rather, it will enable the President to exert the type of leadership in fiscal restraint that both branches of government must display.

Under proposed legislation, a line-item veto would allow the President to make an itemized list of programs in a spending law that he wants to eliminate or reduce. In order to block these cuts, Congress would have to express its disapproval of the reduced funding within a limited time.

If we do not act soon to bring federal spending under control, it could cause serious problems with our economy and be harmful to almost all Americans except for the super-rich. ☐

Rep. Mickey Edwards, R-Oklahoma



## NO

He is commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and he appoints Supreme Court Justices, all other federal judges, every ambassador and the heads of every executive department and agency. But the Constitution also clearly defines the limits of presidential power. The very first sentence of the Constitution plainly states that all

legislative powers are to be vested in the Congress. The Constitution may be vague in certain areas, but in this instance it could not be any more clear. All legislative power—and that means spending power—is given to the Congress.

Supporters argue that if the line-item veto is available to the governors of 43 states, then it should be available to the President, too. But state governments are not miniature federal governments. Only the federal government has the responsibility of defending the nation, enforcing treaties and supporting activities as large as Social Security and Veterans Affairs.

A President with a line-item veto authority would have far more power to set the legislative agenda than was ever envisioned by the founding fathers. Important programs could be virtually wiped out by a hostile President and a mere 6 percent of Congress.

How? Say, for example, that a liberal President sought to end the Stealth bomber program. With one stroke of the pen, he could veto the line in the defense appropriations bill funding the plane. Even if there was overwhelming public support for the program, and all 435 members of the House and nearly two-thirds of the Senate voted to override the veto, with the support of only 34 senators—the number needed to sustain a veto—the Stealth bomber would be history.

Many people are frustrated by the inability of the federal government to balance the budget and to cut waste. I am frustrated, too. But the way to change that is at the polls. It may be more tedious, more expensive, and more time consuming, but our founding fathers didn't set out to create the most efficient government in the world; they created a system designed to protect our liberties.

The line-item veto would fundamentally shift the balance of power and change our form of government. The temptation to place more power in the hands of an already very powerful chief executive is a temptation that should be very strongly resisted. ☐

### CALL IN YOUR OPINION, 1-900-321-0101

Do you believe Congress should give the President the line-item veto? Call your opinion to 1-900-321-0101. You can vote, receive a vote tally, record your opinion for possible publication, and hear opinions of others. Calls cost \$1 per minute. Money raised is used for Legion programs.

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RAIN OF TERROR—More than 80 percent of defoliation spray operations used Agent Orange.

# AGENT ORANGE COVER-UP

**A**

14-MONTH House investigation has concluded the Reagan administration "obstructed" a Centers for Disease Control (CDC) study of veterans exposed to the defoliant Agent Orange while serving in Vietnam.

The House Government Operations Committee filed a scathing report that alleges the White House had a secret strategy to deny government liability in toxic exposure cases, and that the strategy led to the cancellation of the CDC study. In late 1987, CDC

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A HOUSE  
COMMITTEE REPORT  
SAYS WHITE HOUSE  
ATTORNEYS IN 1987  
FORGED A PLAN  
THAT SPIKED A  
CDC STUDY.

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researchers abandoned the study, claiming it was impossible to establish exposure levels for individual veterans.

The committee's report bolsters the recent lawsuit filed by The American Legion against the federal government, which seeks to have the CDC complete the study. Named as defendants in the suit because of their official capacities are VA Secretary Edward J. Derwinski, Health and Human Services Secretary Louis H. Sullivan, CDC Director William L. Roper and Dr. Vernon N. Houk of CDC's Center for Environmental Health and Injury Control. The

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YOU/Jimmy Dorsey/Helen O'Connell • WHERE  
OR WHEN/Guy Lombardo • LOVE LETTERS/  
Dick Haymes • I CAN'T BEGIN TO TELL  
YOU/Harry James/ Betty Grable • AS TIME  
GOES BY/ Dooley Wilson (Sam) • TO EACH  
HIS OWN/Eddy Howard • MISS YOU/Dinah  
Shore • AUF WIEDERSEH'N, SWEETHEART/  
Vera Lynn • FIVE MINUTES MORE/Tex Beneke  
• NOW IS THE HOUR/Bing Crosby • SOME-  
THING TO REMEMBER YOU BY/Dinah Shore  
• DANCING IN THE DARK/Artie Shaw • PEG  
O'MY HEART/Harmonicats • LA VIE EN  
ROSE/Edith Piaf • THAT OLD BLACK  
MAGIC/Glenn Miller • SLEEPY LAGOON/ Harry  
James • IT HAD TO BE YOU/Helen Forrest/  
Dick Haymes • SERENADE IN BLUE/Glenn  
Miller • MEXICALI ROSE/Bing Crosby • THAT  
OLD FEELING/Shep Fields • BY THE LIGHT OF  
THE SILVERY MOON/Ray Noble/Snooky  
Lanson • I DON'T WANT TO SET THE WORLD  
ON FIRE/The Ink Spots • WE'LL MEET  
AGAIN/Guy Lombardo • MAM'SELLE/Art Lund  
• MARIA ELENA/Jimmy Dorsey/Bob Eberly •  
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United States is also a defendant.

Joining the Legion as plaintiffs are three Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange and a widow of a Vietnam veteran whose husband also was in contact with the herbicide.

"What we've always been concerned with is finding out the truth about the health effects of exposure to Agent Orange," said National Commander Robert S. Turner. "The American Legion believes many of the answers to questions about the herbicide have been known for years."

The House committee's report, *The Agent Orange Cover-up: A Case of Flawed Science and Political Manipulation*, says White House attorneys devised a plan to resist paying compensation to thousands of veterans.

More than 12 million gallons of Agent Orange were sprayed throughout Vietnam between 1962 and 1971. The defoliant contains dioxin, which scientists have said causes cancer.

"While the Reagan administration defended the Vietnam conflict as an honorable war, it worked behind the scenes to deny benefits to the very people who sacrificed their health for their country," said Rep. Ted Weiss of New York, a member of the House committee. "Once the American people learn the true story about Agent Orange, I am convinced they will demand better treatment for Vietnam veterans."

The CDC study, which costs taxpayers more than \$43 million, was monitored by a White House task force called the Agent Orange Working Group. According to the House report, "The White House compromised the independence of the CDC and undermined the study by controlling crucial decisions and guiding the course of research at the same time it had secretly taken a legal position to resist demands to compensate veterans of Agent Orange exposure and industrial accidents."

Specifically, the House report alleged the CDC diluted its original study methodology so that it would be difficult to identify veterans with the greatest opportunity for exposure to Agent Orange. All veterans who served more than one tour of duty in Vietnam and those who were in military branches other than the Army were excluded from the study.

After selecting the few veterans for

the study, the CDC tested them for dioxin in their blood. For many study participants, more than 20 years had passed since they were exposed. When few veterans were found to have elevated levels of dioxin in their systems, the CDC recommended that the White House end the study.

The CDC also said records of Agent Orange spray missions and of troop and unit deployments could not be compared for evaluation. But that conclusion has been refuted by many experts, including the scientists who conducted The American Legion-Columbia University Study of Vietnam Veterans.

MEMORANDA  
SUGGEST THAT THE  
ADMINISTRATION  
FEARED PAYING  
HUGE disability  
PAYMENTS.

The Legion study, lead by Drs. Jeanne and Steven Stellman, found exact locations and dates of spray missions and troop movements could be plotted accurately. And according to the House committee report, Department of Defense records experts and officials with the National Academy of Sciences also found records available to the CDC contained adequate information to complete the study.

The report also alleged the CDC found evidence that many Vietnam veterans are at greater risk for contracting non-Hodgkins Lymphoma (NHL), and that there is a high rate of certain birth defects among their offspring. CDC discounted any link between Agent Orange exposure and those problems.

Although the Legion study of about 2,000 Vietnam veterans did not

examine the cancer rates, it did find some participants had similar health complaints such as skin problems, higher rates of miscarriages among their wives, and other physical and psychological problems.

Mounting evidence, perhaps, caused the Department of Veterans Affairs to change its compensation policy for Agent Orange veterans. On May 18, 1990, Secretary Derwinski ruled that VA would begin to recognize soft-tissue sarcomas for disability compensation payments.

At press time, the CDC had yet to comment on the findings of the House committee's report.

What would have happened if the CDC completed the Agent Orange study mandated by Congress in 1979? Memoranda from the White House's Office of Management and Budget shed light on that question and also outline the development of the strategy to protect the government from any liability.

In a memo dated Jan. 17, 1984, commenting on H.R. 1961, Agent Orange-Radiation Compensation legislation, administration officials wrote: "...If this bill passes the House on the suspension calendar (a two-thirds vote is needed), it may be very difficult to stop a compensation bill in the Senate... Enactment of the bill would be a major defeat for the Administration in the toxic torts area."

The memo further warned that Agent Orange compensation advocates in Congress would continue to press their case. The memo also stated that:

"The bill will make it far more difficult to stop broader victims compensation schemes involving hazardous wastes and substances. Dioxin—the toxic ingredient in Agent Orange—is a major issue in this area (Love Canal and Times Beach are largely dioxin exposure cases); we will be in the tenuous position of denying dioxin exposure compensation to private citizens while providing benefits to veterans for in many instances lower levels of exposure."

Another memo dated July 18, 1986, commented on the development of CDC's testing for dioxin in Vietnam veterans' blood. "...The development of a blood test for dioxin exposure will have implications for VA in terms of requests by veterans who will want to

Please turn to page 50



CARVING A FUTURE — Dave Pepple has become a master craftsman.

## *Crafting New Lives*

**By Gurney Williams III**

**D**AVE Pepple is a master at telling true-life sea stories from his 29 years of service in the U.S. Coast Guard. Now 53, Pepple is learning to be a master craftsman at a private Boston school that's affording him a chance at a second career.

Pepple is starting over, when many men his age are thinking of retiring, at

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ALL ACROSS  
THE NATION  
AMERICANS ARE  
WRITING NEW  
CHAPTERS IN  
THEIR LIVES  
BY PURSUING  
NEW CAREERS.

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*Gurney Williams III is a New York-based author who writes on a variety of topics.*

the North Bennet Street School. His new alma mater is a boxy, four-story, red-brick building a short walk downhill from Boston's Old North Church.

A century ago, this part of the city accommodated immigrants who came to these narrow, maze-like streets hoping for a second chance in a new country. The school was founded in 1885 as a charitable organization, and its first students learned to sew and clean house to find work.

Today its arched doorway welcomes high school graduates of all ages—the current student body ranges from 19 to 66 years old—who want to learn to be professional craftsmen. Or craftspeople: Thirty-three percent are

*Please turn page*

women. The curricula includes crafting courses in furniture—Pepple's interest—as well as jewelry, violins, pianos, bookbinding, locksmithing, carpentry and preservation carpentry. Of the 164 students from 20 states who fill these classes, about one quarter have never worked with their hands before. But many of the North Bennet Street pupils bring stories of past careers to school.

Amid the scent of wood shavings, Pepple reminisces. When he left the service in 1988, Pepple had few firm goals. He wanted to stop renting the family's New Hampshire house and move in to stay. He didn't want people working for him, but he wanted to work for himself. He enjoyed making reproductions of antique furniture, so he



searched for a school that could help him convert a hobby to a career. The New Hampshire State employment department introduced him to the North Bennet Street School.

Studying and working in a high-ceilinged shop without power tools is challenging; standards are exacting. Pepple delays the start of an interview to make an emergency adjustment on a walnut and maple bedside table, in the

seconds before the glue sets. Then he points out minor imperfections—invisible to most eyes—in his first project, a cherry wood tool chest.

Simply getting to this shop is a challenge. Every school day, from September to June, Pepple commutes 120 miles round-trip from Boston to his New Hampshire home. The GI Bill pays most of the \$14,900 for the 80-week course. But Pepple still has to pay \$200 a month for tuition, and money for all his supplies, tools and transportation. More than half of the students here receive financial aid; nine North Bennet students are supported by the GI Bill.

But all of the challenges fade when Pepple thinks of the dream he has carved out for his future. He'll be working at home, in his own shop, crafting a few regular pieces like the bedside table or making custom furniture for clients. "I'd like to make things that people a century from now will value," he said.

Nationwide, a growing number of older Americans are learning to make something new of their lives. About 6 million people from their mid-20s to their 90s are going to college, more than double the number in 1970, according to the College Board. Many have returned to the classroom to learn skills they need for the newly emerging service jobs of the 1990s. What's different about the North Bennet Street School is the emphasis on fine, old-fashioned handcrafts, the manufacturing jobs of the 1890s.

Older students here do just as well as younger, according to Walter McDonald, associate director of the school. "Age doesn't make them learn faster or slower," he said, "just more efficiently. They use their time better."

For all students, young or old, the curricula at North Bennet requires a major psychological shift, something like traveling through time.

A few years ago, Jean Maconochie, 29, was a senior airman in the Air Force. Based in Minot, N.D., and then in Upper Hayford, England, she was in the security police. Her most difficult moments came trying to restore harmony to Air Force families during domestic disputes.

Now, at North Bennet, she's becoming an expert on a different kind of harmony. Former Airman Maconochie is building violins, basically the way Stradivari did 250 years ago.

"I've always made things," she said while wearing her new student uniform of faded jeans, sneakers, and a gray and

PHOTOS BY ROB GRANDALL/PICTURE GROUP



**WORD POWER**—Barbara Hebard traded in her job with an insurance company to learn the art of binding books.

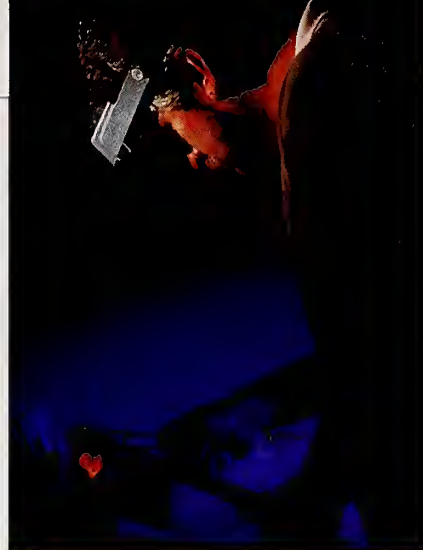


**KEY PLAYER**—Lou Branchaud has tuned into a different career by learning piano technology at North Bennet Street School in Boston.

blue shirt. "I sewed, knitted, made craft items, built kits." At the same time, she liked music and played the flute. When her mother saw a TV report about North Bennet's course in violin making, she advised Jean to look into it.

Gaining admission to the class wasn't easy, Maconochie said. She didn't play the violin, and her flute playing was rusty. "So I had to talk my

way in," she said. The work is slow and difficult. Starting with a metal template, she cuts a plywood mold and trims spruce support blocks, sliver by sliver. First-year students make just three instruments. The school sells all violins made here, counting the proceeds—about \$950 to \$1,450 per instrument—as part of the tuition. In addition, Maconochie pays \$6,000 a



**ROMANCING THE STONE**—Joe Calnan entered North Bennet to learn jewelry-making. Today he teaches it to others.

*Many return to the classroom to pick up skills they need for rapidly emerging service jobs in the 1990s.*

year for her training, and plans to pay at least another \$1,500 for tools. She receives no scholarship help for her military service because she didn't contribute to the education fund while she was in the Air Force.

"It's hard coming up with the money," she said, near the end of her first year. "But I'll stay. It's that interesting." Already she's planning for her final exam: building and playing a violin. Eventually she plans to set up her own shop.

The appeal of working for yourself, after years of following someone else's marching orders, is part of North Bennet's school spirit. It's what led Lou Branchaud, 29, to leave a safe, \$30,000-a-year job with a major soft-drink manufacturer. Now he's taking a course in piano technology and learning to tune and fix the instruments.

"My friends at the old job think I made a big mistake," Branchaud said. "But I saw a manager there lose his job after 23 years. I realized that you have

*Please turn to page 51*

# THE TEMPTING OF AMERICAN COURTS

*America's appointed judges have been handing down more political decisions, a role that should be left to elected lawmakers. Jurist Robert Bork says that trend is eroding the right of self-government.*

**D**ECISIONS from the bench, whether at the local level or all the way up to the Supreme Court, affect us all. But according to some jurists, the extent of many court decisions goes too far and crosses into politics. "The accelerated trend toward a judiciary that is political rather than a legal branch of government erodes the most basic American right—the right of the people to govern themselves when the Constitution does not say otherwise," says Robert Bork, former circuit judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia.

Bork, the author of the best seller, *The Tempting of America*, stepped into the national spotlight in 1987 after being nominated to the Supreme Court by the Reagan administration. Bork, who is now a John M. Olin Scholar in Legal Studies at the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research, discusses a range of issues in the following interview with THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE.

**American Legion Magazine:** Why do some judges and courts consider it their role to enact laws?

**Judge Robert Bork:** When many judges feel very strongly, they often tend to identify their own views with natural law or with the spirit of the Republic or something of that sort. They didn't really get into high speed until after the Civil War with the conservative free-enterprise court, which was striking down statutes that it had no business striking down. With the Warren court, things took a quantum leap, and they were rewriting the Constitution steadily.

**Q.** When did the Supreme Court begin making laws in

addition to interpreting the Constitution?

**A.** I don't think it really happened until the Dred Scott decision right before the Civil War in which Chief Justice Taney decided for the Supreme Court that the federal government had no power to prohibit the taking of slaves into federal territory. In effect, he made slavery a constitutional right. That was the first time the court made up the Constitution.

**Q.** Do you believe an elite minority uses the courts to displace democratic choice by imposing its social agenda?

**A.** I think it's what we would call the "knowledge class" or the "intellectual class" which is heavily represented in the universities and the media, public interest organizations, in church bureaucracies, and so forth. You get a social agenda, which the American people won't vote for, enacted by the Court, which responds to that minority elite.

**Q.** How can a judge weigh constitutional questions without paying attention to his personal preferences and values?

**A.** No human being can ever completely get his or her values out of the way. Those values will always play some role in judicial decision making. However, there's an enormous difference between the judge who realizes that and self-consciously tries to remove his or her own values from the process and the judge who just decides the role of the judge is to do good as he sees it.

**Q.** What traditional rights that U.S. citizens have always valued are being eroded by court decisions?



ROBERT BORK

AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

**"I THINK a lot of courts have taken on powers that do not belong to them."**

**Q.** Why are courts increasingly disinclined to protect rights of people to protect themselves and their property? For example, some courts are upholding suits by burglars, purse-snatchers and other criminals who sue for injuries they incur while they were committing crimes.

**A.** That puzzles me. I don't understand it. When a burglar hurts himself while breaking into a house and then sues, I find that preposterous. I don't know how a court can entertain a suit like that for a minute.

**A.** I think the primary right, the primary freedom, the most important freedom that the Constitution gives us, is the freedom to govern ourselves democratically unless the Constitution says otherwise. When a court wanders into areas that are reserved for the moral choice of the American people, it takes away that freedom.

**Q.** What can we do to stop the erosion?

**A.** I think we have to understand what the court's duty is and understand when the court does not live up to that duty. By constructive criticism, we can try to keep the court doing what it should do. By supporting nominees who are followers of the original understanding of the Constitution and opposing nominees who are not, we can try to get judges who will understand and stick to their proper role in this democracy. That role is crucial, but also limited, and we have to have judges who understand that.

**Q.** Are the courts becoming legislatures whose enactments are final?

**A.** Yes, when they speak in the name of the Constitution, their enactments are final. If they don't speak correctly in the name of the Constitution, then they are legislative. They do the same thing in other fields of law. I think a lot of courts have taken on powers that don't belong to them, and they don't seem to realize the distinction in roles between legislators and judges.

**Q.** Would you comment on flag burning?

**A.** The flag burning decision is very peculiar. It rests on the statement that the government may not suppress an opinion it dislikes. That's not what was involved. What was involved was the method of expressing opinion. The court seems to be saying that there's nothing you can't do to

*Please turn to page 47*

# OUT OF THE

# T

# WELFARE

# TRAP

*Despite an abundance of welfare programs, the number of Americans living in poverty has not diminished in the last decade.*

**By Philip C. Clarke**

**I**T'S THE law. Beginning Oct. 1, 1990, unemployed parents on welfare with children over the age of 3 and not actively seeking work are required to enroll in state-administered job training or basic education programs or lose their federal benefits. The requirement affects mainly single mothers who, last year, composed more than half of the nation's 7 million poor families.

This is not, as some critics might think, a draconian plot by Big Brother to control the poor. To the contrary, it is an effort to help several million jobless aid recipients escape the "welfare trap."

"It's not magic. It will not move everyone off welfare, or even the majority," conceded Drew Altman, New Jersey's Commissioner of Human Services. "The goal is not just to move people off welfare, but to help people out of poverty."

To Lorraine Aronson, Connecticut's Commissioner of Income Maintenance,

*Philip C. Clarke is a former correspondent for the Associated Press and has had several articles published in this magazine.*

the education requirement of the new federal law provides the single greatest element of hope. "By breaking the cycle of educational poverty," she said, "the next generation of children, seeing their parents hit the books, will perhaps see a value in it for themselves."

The government's welfare-to-work program is mandated by the Family Support Act of 1988, which calls for the most sweeping reforms in public aid since President Lyndon B. Johnson declared war on poverty 25 years ago. The Job Opportunity and Basic Skills Program, as it is known, covers recipients of Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC). They number 3.3 million women heads of household, 425,000 men with similar roles and 7.3 million children under 18. Phase 1 began last April when states were required to provide a year of subsidized child care and medical benefits for welfare parents who find employment outside the home. Transportation also is paid for as needed.

Costs of the program, estimated at \$4 billion or more a year, are shared by the federal government and the states. Any state failing to comply could lose all of its federal welfare subsidies. To ease financial burdens, local authorities are urged to try harder to make absentee fathers meet their child support obliga-

tions, including garnishing wages. Another provision requires welfare recipients under 20 who lack high school diplomas to enter an education equivalency program as a condition for continued benefits.

The goal is to have at least 1-in-5 adult welfare recipients enrolled in education or job training courses within the next five years. At the same time, the plan aims at reducing welfare cases nationwide by 7 percent in 1990, and by 20 percent by 1995. Critics, however, contend that such targets are unrealistic. They point out that, for nearly a decade, the number of Americans classified as living below the poverty line has remained more or less stationary at around 32.5 million, or slightly above 13 percent of the population. This is despite a plethora of welfare programs that, since the mid-1960s, have cost taxpayers over \$1 trillion and which currently account for an annual outlay of \$132 billion.

In addition to the added financial strain imposed by the reform programs, state and local authorities are worried that many welfare parents even with job training will be unable to meet the rising costs of child care while they work. They also fear that when the 12 months of extra benefits expire, many of the recipients will simply "fall through the cracks" into the poverty rolls again.

**P**ERHAPS the greatest paradox of all is that despite the recent increase in the minimum wage from \$3.35 an hour to \$3.80 an hour, the pay from an average entry-level service job still is well below the Census Bureau's 1989 poverty line of \$12,675 for a family of four, the bureau's most recent computation. And whenever the income of a working poor family exceeds the poverty level, even by only a few hundred dollars a year, it risks losing the public assistance needed to help provide a minimally decent standard of living.

A study of current welfare benefits in five major U.S. cities, conducted by the Washington-based Education and Research Institute (ERI), found that in most cases the value of the public-aid package for a single mother of three school-age children was significantly greater than the current poverty line. In Boston, for example, the benefits totaled \$15,495 a year, equal to a pre-tax annual income in the private sector of \$19,183 (see chart). Small wonder



**COSTLY CARE**—Gina Puckett is one of 3.3 million women who receive Aid for Dependent Children and struggle to pay child-care costs.

many poor families prefer to remain on welfare.

Consider the actual case history of Nancy K. Murphy, 28, of Clearwater, Minn. When state benefits for child care ran out, Murphy, the single mother of a 2-year-old son, was forced to give up her job and go on welfare. She expects to receive about \$663 a month in benefits, and that's without a housing subsidy. Comparing this to her former salary of \$640 a month before taxes as a children's photographer, Murphy made the only practical choice. "I saw an ad for my old job in the paper," she told a reporter. "It made me sick at heart that I had to give it up."

"The criticism in the past was that welfare-to-work programs limited people to the kinds of jobs that really didn't leave them any better off," said Chuck Harris, assistant employment chief for the North Carolina Division of Social Services. "If we are really going to help people get off welfare—and stay off—we're going to have to invest in education and training up front."

Evidence suggests that until now  
Please turn to page 45

## WELFARE BENEFIT VALUES

	AFDC	Food Stamps	School Lunch	Medicaid	Housing	Total
<b>BOSTON</b>	\$7,536	\$1,721	\$756	\$3,684	\$1,798	\$15,495
<b>DC</b>	5,760	2,244	756	4,857	1,288	14,905
<b>NYC</b>	6,420	2,439	756	3,799	1,435	14,849
<b>CHICAGO</b>	4,632	2,592	756	2,439	1,888	12,307
<b>ATLANTA</b>	3,876	2,819	756	2,785	1,580	11,816

(Sources: values for two of the benefit programs—school lunches and Medicaid—were derived from federal documents. The other three—AFDC, food stamps, and housing—were obtained through the cities' welfare offices.)

	Welfare Package	Pre-tax Annual Income Equivalent	Pre-tax Hourly Rate
<b>BOSTON</b>	\$15,495	\$19,183	\$9.22
<b>DC</b>	14,905	18,275	8.79
<b>NYC</b>	14,850	18,225	8.76
<b>CHICAGO</b>	12,307	14,568	7.00
<b>ATLANTA</b>	11,816	14,028	6.74

PHOTO BY JIM ARGO/PICTURE GROUP



FEW weeks before Christmas in 1890, Santa Claus made his debut at the Boston Store located in Brockton, Mass.

"I remember walking down an aisle and, all of a sudden, right in front of me, I saw Santa," recalled Edmund Pearson, who was on hand when Kriss Kringle paid his first visit to a department store. "I couldn't believe my eyes. I thought a miracle had happened."

Pearson was then in his nineties when interviewed in 1976 shortly before his death. "I was only five or six at the time," he said.

"Santa is everywhere now at Christmas. It was different back in 1890. In those days, we saw his sketches in newspapers and magazines. We never thought we'd have a chance to see him in person. I'll never forget that day. It was a dream come true.

"Later on, I learned the name of the man who wore that Santa costume. It was James Edgar, owner of the Boston Store. He didn't wear the costume to attract customers. He loved children. He wore that outfit because he wanted to delight the children who came by the store with their parents. James Edgar gave me a memory I've treasured all my life. What a wonderful person he was."

James Edgar, a native of Scotland who came to America when he was a child, made boys and girls more aware of Santa Claus than they had ever been before. He was a tall, well-stuffed soul with a ruddy complexion, and a hearty laugh. He had a rich, warm voice and a snowy white beard. He was a natural.

Every Saturday morning, children would line up outside his store, and he would give them pennies. In those days, you could buy a lot of candy for a penny. On the Fourth of July, he hired all the trolley cars in town, so he could take the children of Brockton on a picnic to nearby Avon. Some years, he hired as many as 30 trolley cars. If Edgar heard of a youngster who was seriously ill, the best medical care available was sent to the child's home. The donor was always anonymous.

*Dick O'Donnell is a resident of Honolulu, Hawaii.*

Edgar opened The Boston Store in 1878. Later, it was known as Edgar's. He was married and had a daughter. Perhaps his love for her inspired the great love he had for all children. A showman of sorts, he enjoyed dressing in costumes at the picnics.

Edgar's appearance once as a clown brought such a great response, he decided to wear the costume in his store the following Christmas. He would wander through the store and select the girl with the prettiest ribbon in her hair. She received a Christmas doll. This went on for three or four years. In 1890,

Word of Edgar's great success spread across the nation. In 1891, Santa made his debut at a number of major stores in other cities. By the turn of the century, he had thrones in department stores in nearly every major city in America.

In 1920, 10 years after Edgar died, hard times hit Brockton. Several factories closed, and a large segment of the city's population was unemployed. December arrived, and the mood of the holiday season should have prevailed. It didn't. Charles Brooks, the city's truant officer, discovered a lack of shoes kept hundreds of children home from school. Money was so tight parents could not afford to buy new shoes for their children, or repair the old ones.

Brooks asked William L. Wright, who was then president of Edgar's store, to lend a helping hand. Specifically, Brooks asked Wright to "do what Jim Edgar would have done if he were alive." Wright did just that. The top floor of the three-story store was closed during the busiest month of the year. A \$3,000 shoe repairing machine was bought, and bundles of heels and soles and leather findings were delivered to the store. A half-dozen cobblers, each paid a weekly salary of \$40, were hired. In short order, the James Edgar Shoe Shop was open for business. In addition, "The Edgar Barrel" was placed near the front entrance, so that those with steady employment could donate spare shoes their own children had outgrown.

By Christmas, more than 1,000 pairs of shoes were repaired without charge at Edgar's. By spring, when the James Edgar Shoe Shop finally closed, more than 5,000 pairs of shoes, all mended free of charge, were walking the streets of Brockton.

Ten years after his death, the man who was Santa Claus was able to reach out, if only in spirit, and help the children he loved so much.

In 1890, when James Edgar first had his idea, only a few children had a chance to meet Santa. This year, millions and millions of eager young children will whisper their Christmas secrets into Santa's ear. □

**HEART OF GOLD**—Store owner James Edgar's passion for helping his fellow man lasted year round.

THE MAN WHO WAS

**SANTA  
CLAUS**

*The spirit of  
kindness and love  
for others burned  
bright in the  
life of America's  
"first" Santa.*

**By Dick O'Donnell**

Edgar decided to try a new costume at Christmas. He had a Santa suit made in Boston. The following week, the roly-poly gentleman made his first appearance in a department store. The rest is history.

The next day, the store was crowded with children. A week after Santa made his debut, there were long lines outside the Boston Store after school. All the kids in town wanted to meet the great man. Originally, Edgar planned to appear only a couple of hours each day in the Santa costume, but his idea proved so popular he had to send to Boston for another Santa outfit.

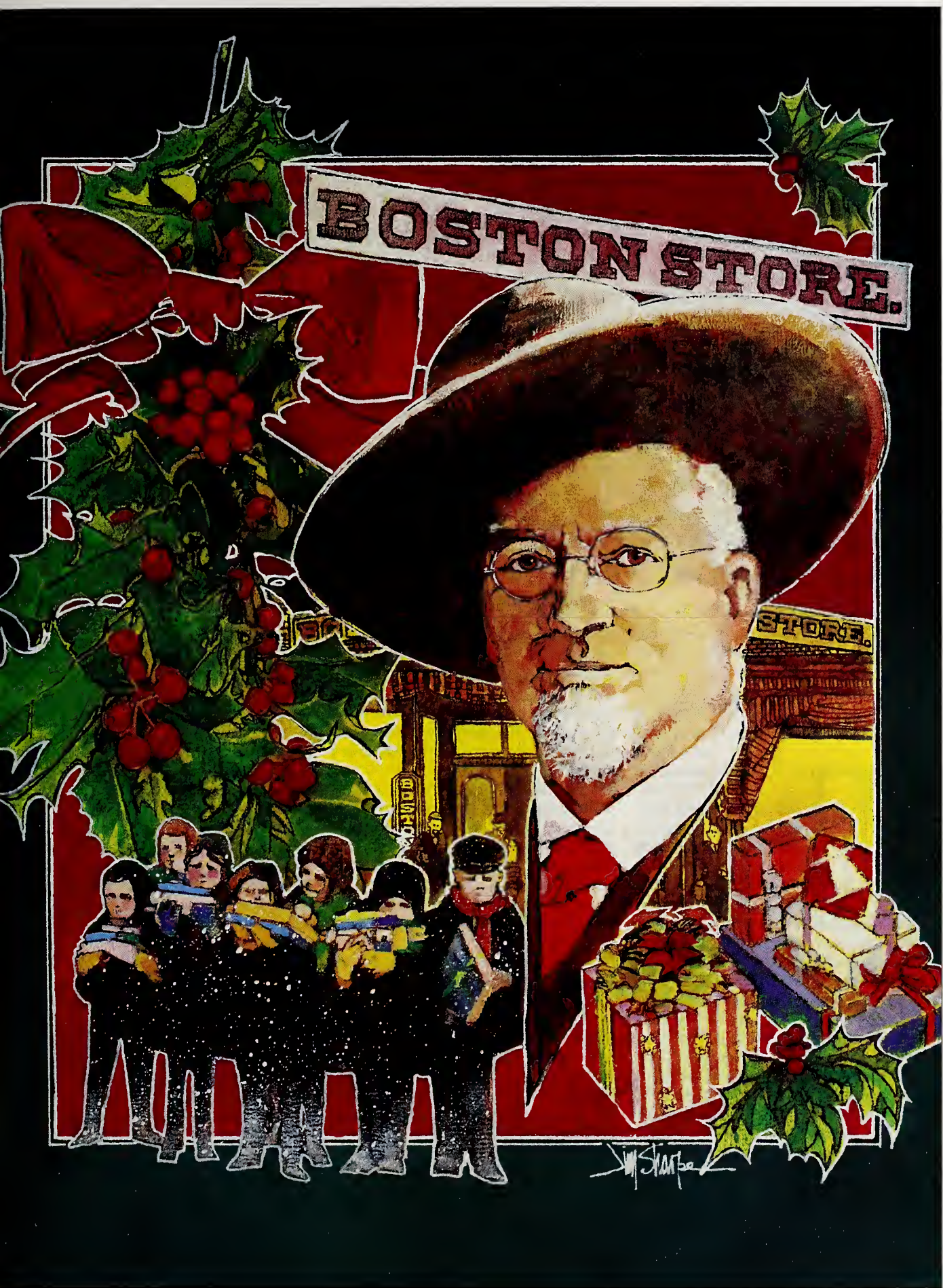


ILLUSTRATION BY JIM SHARPE

# HEALTH-CARE SYSTEM

About 37 million Americans, mostly full-time workers and dependents, have neither health insurance nor money to pay for medical bills. They can't afford to get sick.

By Gary Turbak



**M**R. L. owns and manages a tool rental shop. Last year, he paid more than \$17,000 in health insurance for each of nine employees.

General Motors, the nation's largest company, now spends \$3 billion annually for health insurance for its employees—more than it spends on steel. Chrysler Corp. estimates that health-care costs add \$700 to the price of each car it makes. "We've waged a war on health-care costs and lost," said Chrysler Chairman Lee Iacocca.

There's no longer any question about it—America's health-care system is in trouble. In fact, it is simultaneously gripped by three overlapping crises—cost, availability and quality.

"Our health-care system is failing,"

*Gary Turbak, who resides in Montana, is a frequent contributor to this and other general-interest magazines.*

said David Himmelstein, a physician and assistant professor at Harvard. "It denies access to many in need and is expensive, inefficient and increasingly bureaucratic." A growing chorus is calling for change.

Virtually every other industrialized nation guarantees its citizens universal, inexpensive (often free) medical treatment. In Canada, Japan, Sweden, Britain and elsewhere, millionaires and paupers receive the same kind of health care. Outside the United States, many consumers never see—or have to worry about—medical bills.

Here, however, health care is a patchwork of coverages, deductibles, exemptions and exclusions. Public programs are often inadequate or absent. Some employers provide insurance for employees, but many do not. For the most part, the quality and availability of health care in America is based on the ability to pay.

And the price is high. In 1986, for example, Americans spent an average \$1,926 per person for health care—more than any other nation. Sweden spent \$1,195 per person; France, \$1,039; West Germany, \$1,031; and Great Britain, \$715. While other nations devote about 7 percent of their gross national product to health care, America squanders nearly 12 percent of its productivity this way. This year, our health bill will approach \$650 billion.

Why so much? For starters, we spend 23 cents of every health dollar maintaining a gigantic billing and administrative bureaucracy—one that includes

1,500 insurance companies, each with its own profit requirement. Because America's hospitals compete for customers, each institution buys all the high-tech equipment it can. In addition, Americans are voracious consumers of tests, drugs and surgeries—many of questionable value. Add in physicians' earnings (which average \$145,000 per year, net), malpractice insurance and lawsuit settlements, and it's easy to see why medical costs are sky high.

For employers—who pay 65 percent of the health-care tab—the burden is becoming unbearable. Health insurance premiums have been rising nearly 30 percent per year.

**W**ITH so much money devoted to health care, you'd think everyone would receive complete medical attention, but that isn't so. About 37 million Americans—mostly full-time workers and their dependents—have no health insurance and often no money to pay medical bills. For example, a 30-year-old nurse's aide in Texas earns \$460 each month which makes her ineligible for Medicaid, yet it is not enough to pay for private insurance for herself and her daughter. So far, they've been lucky—they haven't been sick much. Overall, Medicaid reaches only 40 percent of the low-income Americans it is supposed to help.

Tens of millions more people have inadequate insurance. The elderly, whose health needs are supposed to be covered by Medicare, pay half the cost themselves.



**HEALTH CONSCIOUS**—A recent Gallup Poll showed that 63 percent support a government-funded national health service.

"Health insurance in America is a lot like a hospital gown," said Kevin Grumbach, a family physician in San Francisco. "At first glance it appears to give patients adequate coverage, but when

looked at from another angle, embarrassing segments of the population remain exposed."

For people without insurance, health care often consists of a trip to the hospital emergency room when things get bad enough. Sometimes, however, even that door is closed. In 1985, Eugene Barnes, 32, was stabbed. Because he was unemployed and without health insurance, four hospitals refused to admit him. A fifth finally accepted his case, but it was too late, and Barnes died.

But America still has the best overall health care in the world, right? Wrong! Although few nations can compete with U.S. high-tech medicine (such as organ transplants and brain surgery), we finish far back in the pack when it comes to basic indices of health.

Our infant mortality rate is one of the worst in the industrialized world. Nineteen nations take better care of their babies than we do, perhaps because millions of poor American women never see a doctor during their pregnancies. Also, life expectancy in the United States is two or three years less than in Germany, Sweden, Canada, Japan and other nations.

Not surprisingly, Congress, doctors, economists, and even a special commis-

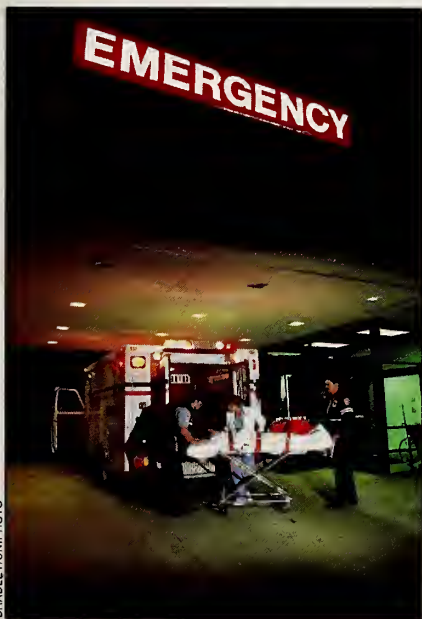
sion have proposed cures for our ailing system. Most of the recommendations seek to fine tune the existing program. Specific suggestions include:

- Requiring all but the smallest businesses to provide health insurance for employees.
- Expanding public coverage for the poor and elderly.
- Standardizing Medicare and Medicaid nationwide. Currently, these programs, though federally funded, vary among the states.
- Creating "risk pools" to provide insurance for the self-employed, employees of small businesses and others not already covered.
- Providing government assistance only for health catastrophes, not routine problems.
- Limiting malpractice lawsuits.
- Restricting the use of some expensive procedures, perhaps by denying certain services to the elderly.

No single proposal contains all of these ideas, of course. Although Congress is currently contemplating legislation based largely on mandated employer-sponsored insurance, many experts believe that major changes are still some distance in the future.

The most controversial idea, how-

*Please turn to page 55*



**CRITICAL CONDITION**—For many without insurance, medical care often consists of a trip to the emergency room when things get bad enough.

CONSTOCK

# *The Art Of* ENCOURAGEMENT

*A kind word or a pat on the back  
at the right time often makes the  
difference between failure and success.  
It can turn dreams into realities.*

**By Victor M. Parachin**

**W**HEN Walt Whitman was a young, aspiring writer, long before he established himself as one of America's premier poets, he had a very difficult time getting published. In fact, his most famous book, *Leaves of Grass*, was

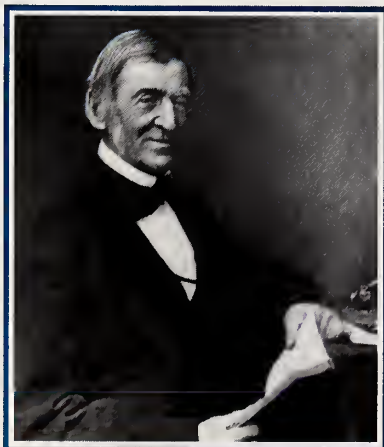
rejected so many times that Whitman published it himself. Working with a small print shop, he produced 800 copies.

In order to sell the book he purchased newspaper ads, sent review copies to book critics and prominent citizens, and dragged copies from bookstore to bookstore in a large canvas bag. There is no record that he sold even a single copy.

Yet, worse than no sales was the fact the book was denounced by those who



*"Dear Sir, I am not blind to the worth of the wonderful gift: Leaves of Grass. I find it the most extraordinary piece of wit and wisdom that America has yet contributed. I greet you at the beginning of a great career. Emerson."*



**RALPH WALDO EMERSON**



**WALT WHITMAN**

received complimentary copies. "A heterogeneous mass of bombast, vulgarity and nonsense," wrote one critic. "We can conceive of no better reward than the lash," declared another. Poet John Greenleaf Whittier reportedly threw his copy of the book out of a window.

Then came a letter from the pre-eminent poet of that day, Ralph Waldo Emerson. The letter contained three short sentences which gave Walt Whitman just the encouragement he needed to keep on writing.

"Dear Sir, I am not blind to the worth of the wonderful gift: *Leaves of Grass*. I find it the most extraordinary piece of wit and wisdom that America has yet contributed. I greet you at the beginning of a great career."

Perhaps it is because the pace of modern life is so hectic and strained that the fine and gentle art of encouragement is often overlooked.

Encouragement is something anyone can do and which everyone needs at one time or another. A kind word or a compliment given helps another make dreams and hopes become realities. More than anything else, encouragement motivates and inspires people to reach for the stars in life. Here are six



*"Rock, Team's not doing well. Hope things are going better for you than they are here.*

*Looking forward to having you back with us. Art."*



ART ROONEY

lift the spirits. Unlike conversation, a note can be put away and then read and reread many times over.

A great note writer was the late Art Rooney, owner of the Pittsburgh Steelers football team. In 1968 one of the new players was Rocky Bleier. After his first season Bleier was drafted by the Army and soon found himself an infantryman sent to Vietnam. There, uncertain that he would ever again play football, Bleier was pleasantly surprised to receive a handwritten post card from Art Rooney which read: "Rock, team's not doing well. Hope things are going better for you than they are here. Looking forward to having you back with us. Art."

During his Vietnam tour Art Rooney continued to send cards, newspaper clippings and game programs. When Bleier's platoon ran into an ambush and a hand grenade exploded, shattering his right foot, he was told he would never play football again. Rooney continued to send notes of encouragement. One was received while Bleier was in a Tokyo hospital: "Rock, we want you here in Pittsburgh with the Steelers."

Those cards fueled Bleier's determination to play professional football again. Indeed, he did return to the Pittsburgh Steelers helping them win Super Bowl IX in 1975. Bleier retired from the team in 1980.

• *Pick Up The Phone.* A friend of mine is a busy and highly successful Chicago executive. Because he is good at what he does, executive recruiters often call him with job offers. Usually he declines but always keeps a list of who called.

Then, when he hears about someone  
Please turn to page 44

**MAN OF STEEL—Former Pittsburgh standout Rocky Bleier (No. 20) feared his Vietnam service would end his days in the NFL.**

stars and the moon.

Also, when the grandmother saw that Fanny had an interest in poetry, she encouraged the little girl to put her thoughts on paper and commended her highly for every verse written. The grandmother's focus upon the positives in her life prompted the little girl to write this poem when she was just eight years old. It reveals her own joyful, independent, positive spirit: "*Oh, what a happy soul am I! / Although I cannot see, / I am resolved that in this world / Contented I will be. How many blessings I enjoy / That other people don't; / To weep and sigh because I'm blind, / I cannot and I won't.*"

The result: Fanny Crosby became America's most prolific hymn writer, producing some 2,000 hymns. Although she died in 1915, more than 60 of her hymns still appear in church hymnals.

• *Send A Short Note.* When people face tough times and discouraging moments there is nothing like a letter to

ways to provide encouragement:

• *Focus on Positives.* Those who need encouragement almost always feel overwhelmed by the negatives currently raging in their lives. When people are down, the bad seems worse than it usually is. To have someone else point out the good which is also always present re-educates the mind, transforms thought patterns and frees people to think in new categories.

**A** GOOD example is the story of Fanny Crosby, who was born in 1820. When she was six weeks old, a physician treated her for an eye infection. Unfortunately, the treatment left her totally blind. The next year her father died, forcing her mother to seek employment to provide for herself and her blind baby.

To make that possible Crosby's grandmother offered to care for her. The grandmother became eyes for the little girl. She taught Fanny about the beauty around them, describing in vivid detail the wonders of the world—clouds, rainbows, sunrises, sunsets,

Victor M. Parachin is a free-lance writer who resides in Villa Park, Ill.

# C H E M I C A L WARRIORS

*Some call chemical weapons the "poor man's atomic bomb." But no matter what it's called, many nations now have great arsenals of poison.*

**By Diane Booth**

**O**N THE eve of the Helsinki summit, at the U.S. State Department, an administrator talked about the chemical threat in the Persian Gulf. "I personally don't believe that Saddam Hussein is crazy," he said.

Instead, he called the Iraqi President "calculating" and projected Hussein would recognize that

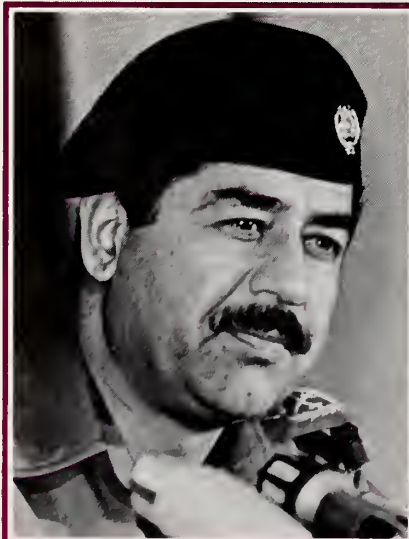
militarily his country was inferior to the might of U.S. Armed Forces. "Therefore," he said, "I think that he is likely to try to employ anything which he thinks will give him an advantage." That could include chemical weapons.

With the Kuwait invasion just five weeks old, the administration official was discussing whether poisons would be used to advance Iraqi occupation against its neighbors.

Considering that Hussein had used lethal chemical agents against both Iran and his own people during the Iran-Iraq War, would he dare to use them against the well-armed multinational force that had converged in Saudi Arabia?

The State Department official refused to speculate on the number of chemical facilities in Iraq nor whether the Iraqis have a stash of chemical warheads for their missile launch system. He did say the Iraqi inventory is "significant" and includes blister and nerve agents. "They are not dependent on getting chemical weapons from some other country," he said.

"The past two decades have witnessed a near total erosion of the traditional restraint system, as evidenced by widespread proliferation and use of chemical weapons in Third World conflicts," said Col. Terry M. Weekly, Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., in a paper published December 1989, in *Parameters*.



**WEAPON** — Saddam Hussein used chemicals against Iraq's Kurds.



Two months after the paper was published, CIA Director Judge William H. Webster, spoke bluntly in Baltimore on the chemical expansion. "The American people were not following that issue," he told the Baltimore Council on Foreign Affairs. "We exposed the activities of Col. Moammar el-Gadhafi in Libya," he said, referring to a factory 40 miles south of Tripoli near Rabta, the alleged home of the largest chemical arms plant in the Middle East.

**L**ESS than a month after Webster's remarks, in March 1990, the U.S. Intelligence Agency reported that the Rabta factory was stockpiling a lethal gas and manufacturing, in smaller amounts, a nerve agent called Sarin. White House press secretary Marlin Fitzwater called the plant "dangerous and becoming more so." Days later a fire destroyed part of the plant. Cause of the fire, whether by accident or sabotage, and the extent of damage, were not specified.

Even if the plant had been completely destroyed it would not have ended the

*Diane Booth resides in Monkton, Md. This is her first article for this magazine.*

AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS



**DESERT ARMOR** — Members of the 82nd Airborne are well-versed in preparing for a chemical attack.

chemical arms race. "There are many other countries, some of whom are our friends, who are quietly developing this lethal capability," said Webster.

"We have been successful in two world wars in avoiding the use of chemical warfare. I am not so optimistic about future low-intensity warfare situations in regional conflicts. Many view it as a cheap strategic counter to the nuclear capability that some believe is possessed by Israel," Webster said. "And of course, implications are that South Africa is also interested in developing such capabilities."

What is especially alarming are efforts by Third World tyrants, known to support terrorism, to acquire or build ballistic missiles and other weapons systems which can easily accommodate chemical warheads. "You have the capabilities at the present time to put every city in the Middle East in a position of vulnerability to chemical weapons," said Webster. This omen reverberated last April when Hussein candidly warned that he would "destroy

half of Israel" with chemical weapons if attacked by Israel.

Frequently called the "poor man's atom bomb," chemical weapons have gained popularity in recent years as Third World countries looked for shortcuts to end wars that ruined their economies, stripped their farmlands

**F**ACED with training against all types of attack, U.S. military leaders admit chemical warfare preparedness was often low priority.

.....

and caused widespread starvation.

Could such brutality be possible today — in an era that hails brawny superpowers for crumbling the Berlin Wall and melting the Iron Curtain?

According to The Arms Control Association in Washington, "Many observers believe that the widespread use of chemical

weapons in the Iran-Iraq War seriously eroded the international prohibition against the use of chemical weapons." In fact, chemicals used in recent conflicts have killed thousands in the Middle East, Southeast Asia, Afghanistan and the Persian Gulf. At the State

*Please turn to page 52*



**CAR WASH** — U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia use a specialized spray that could eliminate dangerous chemical residue from gas and nerve agents.

AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

**T**he morale of U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia is high and they're well aware of their mission and goals in that region, National Commander Robert S. Turner said after returning from a trip to the Mideast.

"They're dug in now," Turner said at press time. "Legionnaires are well aware of what these troops face and that's why we support 'Operation Desert Shield.' Many of us have pitched a tent or stood watch—and we know that some of the worst enemies of troops are playing the waiting game and lack of everyday necessities and small comforts."

When Turner and other Legion officials toured Saudi Arabia in late October, they were told that troops receive about 70 tons of mail each day. "They told me that 700 tons of mail would even be better," he said.

Troops in the region are in need of everyday items that Legionnaires can send. Among the needs: toiletries, multi-vitamins, dry-cell batteries ("AA" size preferably), blank cassette tapes, pre-sweetened powdered drinks and ball point pens. "I also would encourage Legionnaires to send boxes of cards for this holiday season so that the troops can send their season's greetings to their friends and families at home," Turner said. Also, troops need items such as paperback books, stationery, and miniature board games to help pass the time.

Alcoholic beverages and literature that may be considered offensive by the host government should not be shipped, Turner said.

Maj. Gen. William G. Pagonis, the Army's Director of Logistics, guaranteed Turner that any items shipped by Legionnaires will be distributed to troops, especially those who are on the front lines. Unit chaplains will handle distribution. Mail and supplies can be sent to: Any Service Person, c/o Chaplain, ARCENT Support Command, APO NY 09616.

**A**dditional staffing at VA regional offices and on the Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA) is needed to ensure that that veterans' claims are handled more fairly, American Legion officials testified recently before the House Subcommittee on Compensation, Pension and Insurance.

"The American Legion has become increasingly concerned over the last several years about the amount of time required by the board to complete action on an appeal," said Philip R. Wilkerson, assistant director of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division. "According to data provided by the BVA, in fiscal year 1986 an average of 106 days was required. At the end of the third quarter in FY 1990, it was taking 192 days."

Wilkerson said that although the number of cases heard annually by the BVA had risen by only 2,800 cases during the past three years, the number of pending appeals increased by more than 7,500 since FY 1987. At the end of the third quarter of FY 1990, more than 22,000 appeals waited decisions.

While the Legion has applauded congressional action such as P.L. 100-687, which required VA to notify claimants about decisions in their cases more quickly, it also has added to the workload of understaffed VA regional offices. Also, the

Legion has noted an increased number in BVA claims remanded to regional offices for further consideration.

At press time, VA's budget proposal for FY 1991 was in limbo as was other federal agencies, when Congress and the White House could not agree on a budget for the coming fiscal year. However, the VA is seeking additional funding for staffing for the BVA and regional offices.

**A** new generation of veterans is taking its place in the ranks of The American Legion after President George Bush signed legislation expanding membership eligibility.

Those veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. military Aug. 24, 1982 to July 31, 1984; and Dec. 20, 1989 to Jan. 31, 1990, are eligible to join. Those dates reflect U.S. military actions in Lebanon, Grenada and Panama.

Delegates at the 1990 National Convention adopted Res. 1, requesting Congress to change the Legion constitution to expand membership dates. Since the Legion is a federally chartered veterans' organization, it's necessary that eligibility requirements be first approved by Congress.

With congressional approval, the bill was sent to Bush for consideration, and he signed P.L. 101-478 Oct. 30.

"As of that date, veterans from the new era are eligible to join The American Legion," said National Commander Robert S. Turner. "They couldn't be signed up until it became law."

"I'm proud to welcome this new generation of America's defenders," Turner said.

**T**he Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences (USUHS) in Bethesda, Md., is one way to finance the educations of would-be physicians. It is the U.S. military's medical school.

Since 1972, the joint-service school has provided all military branches with a cadre of career medical officers. Medical students attending the F. Edward Hebert School of Medicine are commissioned as second lieutenants or ensigns on active-duty status. They draw full pay and benefits while in school. There is no tuition and other related costs, and students receive traditional civilian medical instruction and courses related directly to military medicine.

At graduation, students receive an M.D. degree and a promotion to captain or lieutenant. In return, they must serve seven years to repay education expenses.

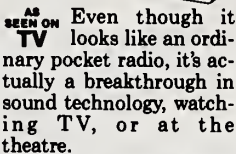
Civilians and military personnel with a college degree may apply for the four-year medical program. Civilian applicants cannot be older than 27 when they enter the medical school. Military applicants can exceed the age limit by up to six years, age 33, based on their prior service.

For more information on USUHS, write the Office of Admissions, attn: PAC, University Services University, 4301 Jones Bridge Rd., Bethesda, MD 20814-4799, or call (202) 295-3101.



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# Capitol Of FREEDOM

By Sam Sherman

**I**N THE stormy years following the Revolution, infant America cried out for a focus, a visible embodiment of states truly united. In 1793, George Washington laid the cornerstone for just such a monument—the Capitol. In the ensuing decades, the edifice and insti-

tution perched atop Jenkins Hill has become a center of government and seat of global democracy. A Capitol to the world.

Here gets done the country's business. Here, the will of the people becomes law, the chaos of pluralism blending into the single resolve of a united America. From the collective national wisdom of the Capitol go forth orders to feed the hungry, help the downtrodden and establish justice. Here, petitions whispered in the private prayer room mix with booming speeches from cavernous chambers to form the singular voice of America.

*Sam Sherman is a free-lance writer and resident of Montana. He is a frequent contributor to this and other leading national magazines.*



When war has been necessary, its declaration was announced from Capitol Hill. And it is here on a black-draped bier in the vast rotunda that slain heroes—generals, presidents and unknown soldiers—come home to rest.

Hucksters once sold stew pans and mousetraps in these corridors. Sen. Sam Houston whittled little wooden hearts and passed them up to ladies in the gallery. Rep. John Randolph hunted foxes till noon, then strode in with hounds still at his heels. Martin Van Buren presided over the Senate

with a pair of pistols tucked in his belt.

The Capitol, with its 540 labyrinthine rooms, is both monument and museum. The massive dome, marble columns, detailed frescoes and crystal chandeliers make this hallowed shrine a living work of art. Outdoors, 181 landscaped acres form an inner-city oasis of tulips, oaks and elms. From her position of prominence atop the dome, Lady Freedom oversees it all.

Today, from the ordered tradition of two centuries, there goes forth from the Capitol an international message of stability, of peace. Rising out of the Potomac River's morning mist, the great dome announces that democracy stands intact. That liberty will never surrender to tyranny. That here has risen a Capitol to the world. □

# CONFESSIONS OF A FORMER ARTHRITIS SUFFERER

## *The Fascinating Story of Joyce Sullivan*

"I was heart-broken. My feet and hands had become swollen and painfully stiff. The doctors had just diagnosed me as having a serious case of rheumatoid arthritis."

Of course, I still tried to cook and clean, but the pain slowed me down so much that my husband urged me to rest and let him do the cooking. Sometimes he brought "fast food" home, and I knew this could be making matters worse.

My back soon became so stooped from the pain that I could only move at a snail's pace. Most of the things I had enjoyed most in life were forbidden to me now. I couldn't even keep up with Danny, my small boy, and I worried whenever he would run outside to play. And seem to disappear.

My doctor seemed as frustrated as I about the arthritis. His only solution seemed to be to give me increasingly large doses of cortico-steroids. My dreams of having a full, active life and a larger family were shattered, because the dreadful side effects of the drugs would be catastrophic to a pregnancy.

Day after day, the pain never went away, even when I took frighteningly massive doses of the medical preparations routinely prescribed by my doctor. I would have tried just about anything at that point. One day a wonderful neighbor came to see me. She works in a veterinary clinic and always has interesting anecdotes to tell. On this day, she happened to mention a little-known remedy the clinic had been using as a treatment for animals which had arthritis.

In fact, she said, arthritic greyhounds treated with the substance were almost miraculously relieved of the pain . . . in just a few days. And she's actually seen race horses with painful bone and muscle conditions that threatened to end their racing days forever. After only a few treatments with DMSO, these same animals were back on the race track. Most veterinarians, it turned out, were using this same substance with great results.

I was surprised when my friend told me that DMSO had proven just as effective for humans back in the 1960s. She couldn't personally say it would work for me because

she had never used it. But she had seen the miraculous effect it had on animals and had read about its many successes with people. My friend believed that this compound — DMSO — could offer me a ray of hope.

I was angry. Why hadn't my learned doctor told me about this wonderful DMSO? I started reading up on it myself, and found that the substance had been approved for medical treatment for a kind of urinary disease in humans and for treating animals, but that its amazing and miraculous properties in the treatment of pain and disease had been largely concealed and suppressed from the general population. I felt angered and betrayed, because all the time I had suffered, DMSO had been readily available for relief of my crippling disease.

I ordered a bottle of DMSO liquid. I first washed the afflicted areas with soap and water. Then I began applying DMSO to my aching, swollen joints. I started acting in my body so quickly that . . . as soon as I applied it to my skin I could taste a slight garlicky taste in my mouth. DMSO is a natural substance which mixes with most any substance in nature — water, oils, fats. So it can permeate the cell walls of every kind of tissue

in the human body. And can carry medications with it, or act alone to alleviate pain and disease.

"Instand relief" is what I got. DMSO is definitely not a drug, and I'll make no health claims for it. But talk to anyone who has tried it.

Today I'm here to testify that I have both my life and my family back. The pain is gone; I can move around about as fast as ever. Danny can't get away from me now, and my husband and family are delighted with my new lease on life. My doctor? He's still frustrated, because deep inside he has to know the costly, dangerous drugs he's using on his patients simply don't heal. But, I'm back to really enjoying a normal, pain-free life.

If you or a loved one live in such a prison of pain, please don't hesitate. Life is too short. Why not join myself and thousands of others, both here and in Europe (where DMSO has been a standard medical therapy for years), whose pain has been ended as suddenly as it began.

DMSO might sound too good to be true. I can't help that. But I only know my pain is gone and DMSO is the miraculous reason why. I am so happy about my own relief that I had to share my story with you. There is no logical reason why this simple extract substance compound can't change your life too.

Don't give in to the pain, nor the futile, useless, risky methods which don't seem to work. Use the enclosed order form to get a low-cost supply of DMSO for only \$19.95. Isn't that cheap? Then say hello to a brighter and happier tomorrow!"

This substance is not sold as a drug or treatment for any ailment. It has many home, hobby, and industrial uses. We cannot and do not sell it as a treatment for any human condition, and any wording in this ad will be cheerfully amended upon the written request of any agency of competent, applicable authority. All symptoms of ailments should be referred to a physician. ©MCMXXC-Adfax

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# BUDGET BLUES PLAGUE MEDICAL CARE

*Shortages in VA funding continue to hurt veterans throughout the nation. A comprehensive spending proposal by The American Legion would restore programs and stave off many fiscal woes.*

**S**HORT-SIGHTED budget policies during the last decade have wrought long-term fiscal problems for veterans' medical programs, and the situation will only get worse if Congress fails to act.

"In the past 10 years, annual federal spending has increased 100 percent while VA funding has increased only 30 percent," said National Commander Robert S. Turner, testifying before a joint session of the Senate and House Veterans' Affairs committees Sept. 18. "Your committees here today have devoted a great deal of time to veterans' programs to meet every budget requirement. Unfortunately, other congressional committees did not."

Turner, who was making his first appearance on Capitol Hill three weeks after his election as National Commander, told lawmakers that the Legion is particularly concerned about the ever-present threat of automatic cuts from VA's medical account because of Congress' failure to meet spending targets mandated by the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings balanced-budget law.

Under the law, an automatic sequestration of most federal discretionary funds begins if Congress doesn't meet spending guidelines each fiscal year. In FY 1989, more than \$200 million was slashed because of the automatic cuts.

"Sequestration of VA medical pro-

grams is a blind budget-cutting procedure that makes no sense, either from a public policy or fiscal policy standpoint," Turner said. "It punishes efficient programs like VA health care while other entitlement spending is allowed to grow out of control."

The Legion supports legislation that would exempt VA medical funds from sequestration. One version of that bill, H.R. 4557, has cleared the House. At press time, a similar measure was being considered in the Senate.

**E**CHOING a concern that has been raised many times by other National Commanders, Turner told the congressmen that the cause of VA's fiscal problems is underbudgeting. "In the last two years, there has been a shortfall in medical-care funding, which the Legion estimates has amounted to at least \$700 million to \$1 billion each year. As a result, large numbers of Category B and Category C veterans have been turned away from the VA medical-care system. In some cases, Category A veterans are being refused treatment."

Category B and C veterans are considered non-service-connected patients and are treated on a space-available basis. Many of these veterans must make copayments to receive care. Under law, Congress must provide care to Category A veterans.

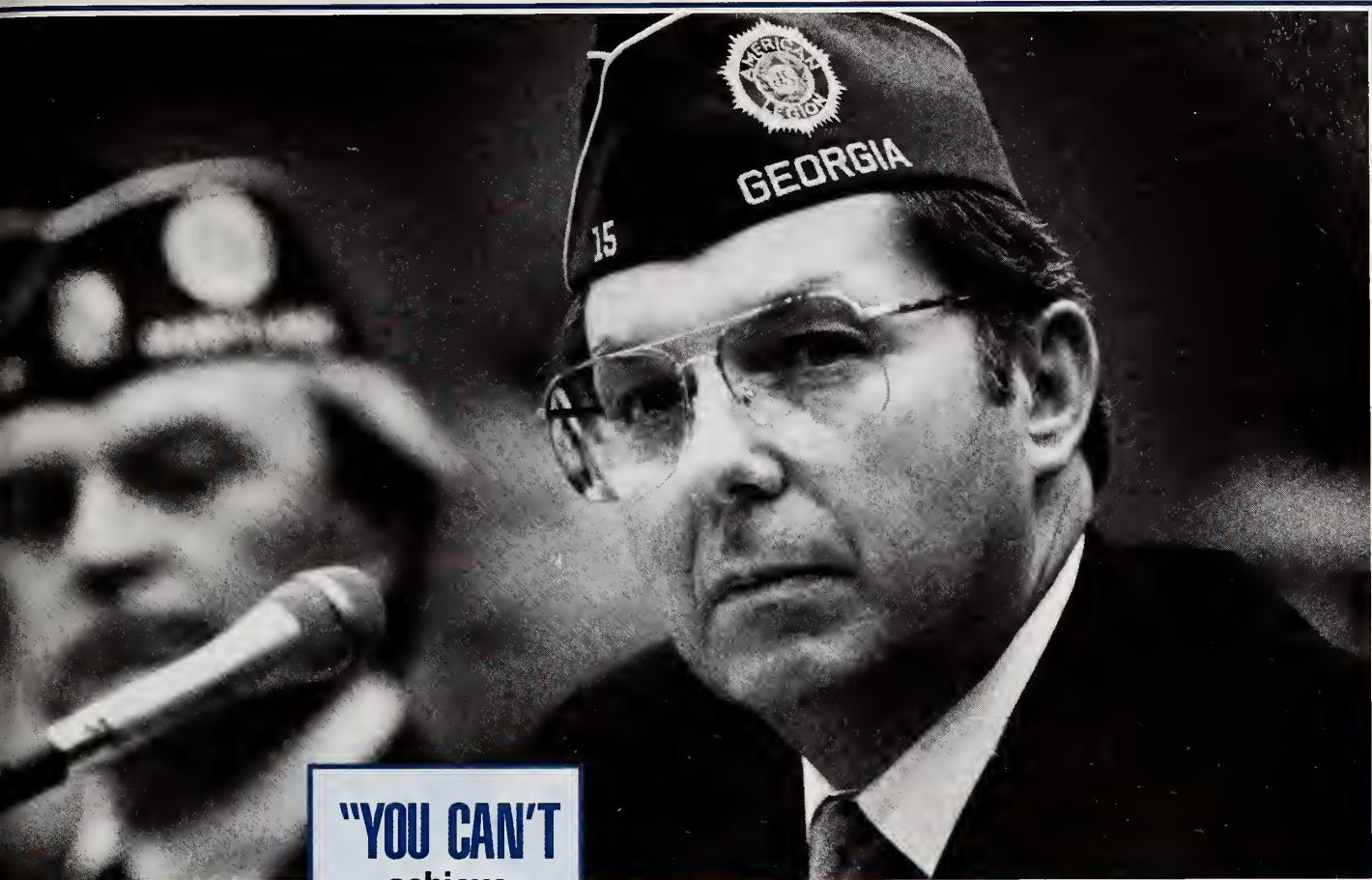
Funding for VA health care in FY 1990, including a \$94 million supple-

mental appropriation last summer, amounted to \$11.3 billion. Turner said even at that level of spending, VA hospitals and clinics still were forced to restrict services and the delivery of care. "Low income veterans suffer the most from these restrictions because they are not poor enough to receive VA hospital care and medicine. Yet, they're not financially able to pay their own health-care expenses."

Turner unveiled the Legion's proposal that would help solve VA's funding crunch. Under the Legion plan, VA medical spending in FY 1992, which will begin Oct. 1, 1991, would be \$14.3 billion, almost \$2 billion more than the current level. Half of the increase would go to specialty programs mandated by Congress and to eliminate an equipment backlog. The remainder would be for medical staff pay increases and to hire additional workers.

"The proposed funding level of \$12.2 billion for the current fiscal year will not allow VA to recover from the cumulative effect of years of budgetary shortfalls," Turner said. "The American Legion will not be satisfied until VA medical-care funding is restored to its proper place among national priorities."

Before Turner's testimony, several of the congressmen pledged that they would not allow veterans' programs to be sacrificed. "We're not going to sit back and allow veterans' benefits to be



**"YOU CAN'T  
achieve  
quality care  
by practicing  
curative med-  
icine in-  
stead of  
preventive  
medicine."**



cut," said Rep. Douglas Applegate of Ohio, a member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee. "Veterans have given so much of themselves, and they have a right to the benefits they have earned. There are no welfare programs here for veterans," he said.

Turner cited two graphic examples of how budget problems have affected veterans. In one case, a veteran complaining of chest pains was denied care at an Iowa VA hospital after doctors said his condition was not an emergency, and he was classified as a Category C patient. The man died of cardiac failure two days later. Another veteran, also of Iowa, killed himself when he learned that VA had cut his outpatient-care services, including medication costing \$200 each month.

"Across the country, many veterans have been discharged from VA outpatient rolls because funding is tighter than ever," Turner said. "The Legion believes that changes must occur at the procedural level to ensure that veterans who truly need VA health care, in fact, receive such care to prevent tragic out-

comes in the future."

Turner, the Legion's third Vietnam veteran National Commander, also told the congressmen about the organization's concern for veterans' health problems linked to their exposure to Agent Orange. "We're convinced that Agent Orange exposure is responsible for a number of disabilities among Vietnam veterans and

their offspring. Although we have been reassured by Secretary (Edward) Derwinski's actions earlier this year, we are frustrated by the wasting of taxpayer's dollars and by the continued delay in developing a conclusive response to the entire matter." (see related story, page 16)

Among the other Legion concerns about veterans' programs and issues, Turner:

- Asked that funding for the VA's Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical centers be increased and programs expanded to meet the needs of an aging veteran population.

- Pointed out that VA medical centers now treat 9 percent of the nation's

**SPEAKING OUT — Commander Turner outlined the Legion's concerns to Congress' veterans affairs committees.**

AIDs patients. Despite ongoing budget problems, he said VA still was able to operate four AIDS Treatment centers and plans to establish programs at six other VA medical centers.

- Said the savings and loan crisis has created problems for VA's Home Loan Guaranty program. It has been proposed that the Government National Mortgage Association's capital reserve requirements be raised. The Legion believes the increase will shorten the supply of mortgage loans to veterans.

- Asked that Congress ensure that those who are forced out of the military because of planned troop reductions receive adequate transitional assistance. A substantial number of military personnel are expected to file claims with VA seeking education assistance, and job-training aid from the Department of Labor.

"VA is a fundamental part of American life," Turner said. "It has a legitimate need for budgetary support and deserves greater attention at both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue," he added, referring to the White House and Congress. □

# HELP ON THE HOME FRONT

**B**ECAUSE many men and women of America's Armed Forces have been called to serve in the distant deserts of Saudi Arabia and the Persian Gulf, The American Legion has launched a nationwide telephone action line to help their families.

National Commander Robert S. Turner recently announced the establishment of the Family Support Network of The American Legion, providing a variety of assistance to military families of active duty personnel serving in Saudi Arabia, as well as National Guard and Reserve units activated by the President.

"Because of the current situation in the Middle East and consequent buildup of military forces, we are once again called upon to help as we have done in the past," Turner said. "Who is better able than we veterans and our families to respond to the needs of those who are left behind, as their spouses are called to serve our nation? Who more than we understand the hardships of family separation when active-duty personnel are sent overseas, or when Reserve and National Guard units are activated?"

Disruption in family routines caused by the call to active duty is a familiar scenario to many Legionnaires. Though the times have changed, the problems families face stay the same. While some spouses are left to care for small children and juggle family finances, others are left alone to face household tasks usually handled by spouses. Many veterans and their spouses are not aware of the Soldiers and Sailors Relief Act of 1940, which obligates financial institutions to accommodate the special circumstances of military personnel called



**LETTERS FROM HOME** — Marine Pvt. Preston Le Blanc of Beaumont, Texas, gets hometown and family news in a letter from his mother.

*The American Legion's  
Family Support Net-  
work helps families  
of military personnel  
now stationed  
in Saudi Arabia and  
the Persian Gulf.*



to active duty to ensure they can—literally—return to their home.

Telephone calls to a toll-free number give access to a nationwide network of 16,000 Legion Posts and 10,000 Auxiliary Units that comprise the Family Support Network of The American Legion. In September, National

Commander Turner wrote a letter to President George Bush outlining Legion plans to ease the sacrifices being made by our U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia. Turner told the President that Legionnaires in all 58 Departments have been encouraged to send personal messages to the military overseas assuring them that the American public supports their service and appreciates their efforts to perform difficult tasks in a dangerous region. The Department of Pennsylvania was among the first to encourage its members to write the troops in Saudi Arabia, communicating their sentiments of support through Army and fleet post offices.

The American Legion has pledged its full cooperation in assisting coordinators of Family Support Services for the Reserves and National Guard in all 50 states.

Beginning in November, 15,000 copies of *THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE* were mailed to Saudi Arabia and the Persian Gulf for distribution to troops, and shipments of the magazine will continue for the duration of the deployment. Sharing the magazine with active duty personnel is reminiscent of the days of World War II when copies of *THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE* were mailed worldwide to men and women in uniform.

The support network's primary feature is a national telephone help-line that channels requests for any type of assistance to Legion Posts throughout the United States, wherever the families of active duty personnel, Reserve and National Guard units require help. Turner also told the President he was prepared to personally make a show of support on behalf of the 3 million Legionnaires and the 1 million Auxiliary members. At press time, Turner and other Legion officials were preparing for a trip to the Middle East, tentatively scheduled for October 22-28.

In a recent visit to the White House, Turner also told the President the energy and determination of Legion and Auxiliary members to help military personnel and their families through the Family Support Network of The American Legion carries on a 70-year tradition mandated in The American Legion Preamble—"devotion to mutual helpfulness." The Legion's nationwide structure, networking capability, and the opportunity to use the most modern communications technology have combined to assist families of military personnel endure tough financial times prompted by their spouses' absence. They will get through with help from people who have been through similar situations.

The network begins to function the moment those eligible dial **1-800-786-0901**. With technology donated by Softguard Systems Inc., the emergency action line can process confidential requests for help in dealing with any problem, from requests for financial assistance or repairing the family car to lighting that pesky furnace pilot light. Each Department adjutant and Department secretary plays a pivotal role as assistance coordinators.

Here's how the network operates: A family member of a military person calls the nationwide, toll-free number, **1-800-786-0901**. Callers must use a



**DESERT KNIGHTS**—U.S. troops such as these tank commanders can take satisfaction in knowing the Legion will help those who are waiting for them at home.

touch-tone telephone because the system employs a series of verbal prompts directing them to one of several touch-tone operated help lines. Company officials advise callers to have their home ZIP code and a call-back telephone number where they can be reached. The call-back number can be to a rotary dial or touch-tone-equipped telephone.

**T**HE new  
national toll-free  
number links  
families with Legion  
Posts throughout  
the nation.

Softguard Systems Inc. processes each request on a confidential basis, taking into account both the urgency and nature of the problem. For example, if the wife of a serviceman has to deal with a broken water pipe flooding her basement she needs help now, not tomorrow. "We collect data, sort it and match it to the Department," said Jeff Loker, CEO of Softguard Systems. The requests are immediately channeled to Departments by telephone or FAX. Once Department officials learn the identity and needs of the caller, they

make personal contact to gather specific information. Then, a call to the nearest Post or District directs Legionnaires on the local level to the military family in need.

"This most important service and follow-up can be provided by the Post, Unit or District, or through your Department Service Officer network, or by any other means available to you through your organizational structure using every available Legion and Auxiliary program," Turner said. Softguard Systems provides National Headquarters with a master list of all requests referred to Departments, allowing headquarters staff to track the program's effectiveness. It also will serve as a model to continue the Family Support Network of The American Legion as a permanent Legion program helping veterans with job referral and other employment, social and education services. Turner said the families of those serving America's interests overseas warrant support from all Americans, especially from those who in their time were called upon to defer personal comforts and family life for service to country.

"No one understands the needs of veterans and their families more than those who themselves answered the call to duty," said Turner. "And no organization is better prepared to fill this essential niche than The American Legion. We are, truly, the active-duty veteran's family's good neighbor in their local community." □

## OUTFIT REUNIONS

Outfit Reunion notices should be submitted on official forms. To obtain forms, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: O.R. Form, THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206. Because of printing schedules, notices should be received at least five months before reunions are held. Notices are published only one time per unit per year.

## Army

- 1st Cav. Div. (FL Chapter)** (Feb-Kissimmee, FL) William Craig, Box 813, St. Cloud, FL 34769 (407) 892-4889
- 3rd/5th Cav., 9th Inf. Div. (Vietnam)** (June-New Orleans) Ron Quezada, Box 629, Ponce DeLeon, FL 32455 (904) 836-5280
- 11th Airborne Div. Assn.** (July-Tulsa, OK) James Hembree, 20 Binks Dr., Clarksville, TN 37042 (615) 552-7761
- 14th Arm'd Div. (S.E. Chapter)** (Jan-Jacksonville, FL) A.E. Schlegel, 2137 Glen Gardner Dr., Jacksonville, FL 32216 (904) 724-2231
- 19th Combat Engrs., A Co.** (Feb-New Port Richey, FL) W.R. Crawford, 926 Thomas Lane, Columbus, OH 43220 (614) 459-3575
- 39th CA AA Brigade/63rd/200th/202nd/206th/260th Rgts.** (Apr-El Paso, TX) Carol Follett, Convention & Visitors, 1 Civic Center Plaza, El Paso, TX 79901 (800) 351-6024
- 62nd Gen. Hospital** (May-Peoria, IL) Henry Steinhouse, Box 103, Timbercrest, McDaniels, KY 40152 (502) 257-8908
- 65th Medical Rgt.** (June-Toledo, OH) Chester Rouse, 19393 S.R. 739, Richwood, OH 43344 (513) 982-3587
- 91st Inf. Div.** (June-Kansas City, MO) Willis Diercks, 376 Cannon View Dr., Red Wing, MN 55066 (612) 388-5762
- 99th Inf. Div. Assn.** (June-San Francisco) Henry Richards, 19 Pinewood Ct., San Mateo, CA 94403 (415) 349-5384
- 106th Med. Rgt./BN, 31st Inf. Div.** (Apr-Hattiesburg, MS) Warren Barnett, 207 Tanglewood Dr., Carriere, MS 39426 (601) 798-6276
- 135th Med. Rgt. (WWII)** (Jan-Green Valley, AZ) Duane Alexander, 37 Calle Martina, Green Valley, AZ 85614 (602) 625-1389
- 143rd F.A. Bn./Rgt.** (March-Stockton, CA) Louis DeLuca, 9 Del Rio Ct., Lafayette, CA 94549 (415) 934-5788
- 168th AAA Bn.** (Apr-Chattanooga, TN) Marvin Hundley, 9102 Hundley Rd., Chattanooga, TN 37416 (615) 344-8266
- 168th Inf.** (Jan-Hickory, NC) Larry Eckard, Box 5145, Hickory, NC 28603 (704) 256-6274
- 187th Para-Glider Inf., 11th A/B Div., E Co.** (1943-46) (May-Dallas) George Fields, (214) 227-7202
- 207th CA (AA)** (Feb-Savannah, GA) John Cardlin, 6F Putnam Green, Greenwich, CT 06830 (203) 531-5330
- 208th MP Co.** (Apr-Houston, TX) Jim Waters, Box 936, Lufkin, TX 75901 (409) 632-3361
- 217th CA AA, D Btry.** (May-Long Prairie, MN) Adrian Huncelord, Rt. 2, Box 255, Long Prairie, MN 56347 (612) 732-6336
- 278th Rgt. Combat Team** (Mar-Pigeon Forge, TN) H. Wilkerson, Box 491, Lenoir City, TN 37771 (615) 986-2616
- 322nd Signal Bn., T&T Co.** (Mar-Washington, DC) R. Riker, 261-05 Hillside Ave., Glen Oaks, NY 11004
- 376th Parachute F.A. Assn.** (May-Fl. Bragg, NC) John Young, 125 Gersam Ave., Hamilton, OH 45013 (513) 894-4164
- 419th Arm'd F.A.** (July-Augusta, GA) Charles Winters, 4479 Village Green Dr., Birmingham, AL 35291 (205) 991-7829
- 430th AAA AW Bn. (WWII)** (May-Dearborn, MI) Roland Kluth, 14812 Fairway Dr., Livonia, MI 48154 (313) 591-0001
- 448th AAA AW Bn.** (June-Columbus, OH) Ike Kendall, Box 448, Silver Lake, IN 46982 (219) 352-2864
- 507th QM Car Co.** (Feb-San Antonio) Edwin May, 13615 Chapel Oaks, San Antonio, TX 78231 (512) 492-4930
- 508th Airborne Inf./RCT unita** (May) Bob Murray, 6 Mill St., Woburn, MA 01801
- 512th MP Field Army Bn., 3rd Army** (June-Florence, AL) Travis Carter, Rt. 1, Box 248A, Winfield, AL 35594 (205) 487-4545
- 580th AA Bn., D Btry.** (May-Daytona Beach, FL) William Tinsley, 22 Goodall Ave., Daytona Beach, FL 32018 (904) 255-9880

- 608th/652nd Tank Destroyer Bns. (WWII)** (Sept-Lancaster, PA) Harry Rapp, 317 W. King St., Lancaster, PA 17603 (717) 394-7942
- 718th Tank Bn. (WWII)** (Mar-Miami) Norm Snider, 1049 Graham Rd., Venice, FL 34293 (813) 497-1271
- 749th Railroad Bn.** (July-Amarillo, TX) Donald Gothard, 4173 Dixie Ct., Columbus, OH 43228 (614) 279-3026
- 787th Tank Bn., B Co.** (May-Louisville, KY) Robert Gunning, 1249 Driftwood Dr., Lowell, IN 46356 (219) 696-0409
- 904th FA Bn., 79th Inf. Div.** (July-Canton, OH) Elza Murphy, 207 Pearl St., Wooster, OH 44691 (216) 264-4080
- 998th Treadway Bridge Co.** (May-Ft. Smith, AR) Val Hansen, 400 N. 56th St., Lincoln, NE 68504 (402) 467-2138
- 1462nd Engr. Boat Maint. Co., 3rd E.S.B.** (May-Bradford, PA) Clayton Brown, Box 280, Lodi, NY 14860 (607) 582-6466
- 3204th QM Serv. Co.** (June-Topeka, KS) Clarence Hart, 3821 SE. Tomahawk Trail, Topeka, KS 66609 (913) 266-8876
- Constabulary (U.S. Zone) ETO, any Sqs. (1946-52)** (Mar) Bud Groner, 257 Georgetown Blvd., Daytona Beach, FL 32119 (904) 788-7260
- Infantry OCS Alumni Assn.** (Feb-Columbus, GA) Chester Alderfer, Box 2192, Fort Benning, GA 31905
- Santa Ana Army Air Base Wing** (Apr-Costa Mesa, CA) Alvin Anderson, Box 1764, Costa Mesa, CA 92628 (714) 631-5918
- Vietnam Helicopter Crew Members Assn.** (June-Louisville, KY) Spencer Gardner, Box 237, Crowley, TX 76036 (817) 297-4993
- WAC Det., Ft. Knox, KY** (July-Denver) Essie O'Neill, 10495 W. 35th St., Wheat Ridge, CO 80033 (303) 421-5278
- XIX Army Corps HQ & Units** (May-Stockton, MO) Alden Brown, Rt. 4, Box 164, Stockton, MO 65785 (417) 276-4451

## Navy

- 2nd CB Bn., Camp Peary, VA (June/Aug. 1943)** (March-Clark, NJ) V.H. Raimo, 29 Broadway, Clark, NJ 07066 (201) 396-0080
- 17th/120th Seabees** (Mar-Mobile, AL) Michael Meade, Box 1, Raub, IN 47976 (219) 474-5433
- 90th Seabees** (Aug-Cleveland) Barney Freeman, 5782 Parkwalk Cir. W., Boynton Beach, FL 33437 (407) 736-2859
- CBMU-599 WWII** (June-Diverson, IL) Bob Murphy, Rt. 1, Box 83, 927 S. 1st St., Diverson, IL 62530 (217) 628-9030
- DesDiv-59/USS Dupont/Bernadou/Ellis/Cole/Dallas** (May-Kenner, LA) Dick Prouty, 335 Main St., Spencer, MA 01562 (508) 885-2894
- Great Lakes NTS, Co. 46 (1943)** (Dec-Chicago) Vernon Barker, 2903 Lola Ct., Waterford, MI 48329 (313) 674-2773
- Mine Sq. 10 Assn.** (Apr-Charleston, SC) Paul Handley, Box 32416, Charleston, SC 29417 (803) 571-3214
- NAS Corpus Christi** (1963-68) (May) Cidney Engberg, 1817 N. Summit St., Wheaton, IL 60187 (708) 690-8517
- Navy 3115 Cub Ten (Hollandia, New Guinea)** (June-Canton, OH) Carl Hegal, 2427 Cottingham St. NW, North Canton, OH 44720 (216) 494-2427
- New York Naval Militia (1940-41 Call Up)** (May) Walter Floss, 6465 Transit Rd., East Amherst, NY 14051 (716) 688-5115
- Seabee Veterans of America (FL Dept.)** (Apr-Fort Lauderdale, FL) Jack Jacobs, 3400 Galt Ocean Dr., #1504S, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33308 (305) 564-0487
- USN Armed Guard** (Apr-Brownwood, TX) H. Murray, Rt. 1, Box 82, Richland Springs, TX 76871 (915) 623-5533
- USNAB Bremerhaven, Germany (1951-54)** (Oct) J. Manna, 5838 Roble Loma Dr., Pensacola, FL 32526 (904) 944-9684
- USS Albemarle Assn.** (May-Louisville, KY) Thomas Dodd, #3, 52nd Ave., Isle of Palms, SC 29451 (803) 884-1553
- USS Alhena AK-26/AKA-9** (May-New Orleans) Clyde Meyers, 805 Marion Dr., Denham Springs, LA 70726 (504) 664-4786
- USS Alkeas AK-110 (WWII)** (July-Auburn, ME) Maurice Morin, 45 Lucille St., Auburn, ME 04210 (207) 782-7149
- USS Arlarka ATF-98** (March-Los Angeles) John Galbreath, 1159 Conwell St., Suite 221, Covina, CA 91722 (818) 339-4331
- USS Aucilla AO-56** (May-Nashville, TN) D.L. Kelley, 206 Honeysuckle Dr., Franklin, KY 42134 (502) 586-6704
- USS Augusta CA-31** (May-Colorado Springs, CO) Earl

- Dixon, 1075-275 Space Park Way, Mt. View, CA 94043 (415) 968-5172
- USS Breton CVE-23 (1943-46)** (Spring-St. Louis) Jim Muffo, (618) 397-3309
- USS Briscoe APA-65** (Feb-Orlando, FL) H.L. Chavis, Rt. 1, Box 415, Slocumb, AL 36375 (205) 886-2540
- USS Charles S. Sperry DD-697** (Apr-New Orleans) Robert Irwin, 1321 Maplewood Ave., Norfolk, VA 23503
- USS Colhoun DD-801** (Apr-Long Beach, CA) Helen Linn, 5370 S. Columbia, Reedley, CA 93654
- USS Core CVE 13/VC 13/6/36/58** (May-Seattle) Richard Trefts, 3351 E. Wheel Dr., Langley, WA 98260 (206) 221-8270
- USS Dickens APA-161 (WWII)** (Feb-Jackson, MS) William Carothers, 606 E. Myrtle St., Mason City, IL 62664 (217) 482-5651
- USS Doyen APA-1 (WWII)** (Mar-Hammond, LA) Ambrose Brunett, Star Rt, Box 19-B, Husser, LA 70442 (504) 748-7364
- USS Grand Canyon AD-28** (June-Jackson, MI) Vern Russell, 1530 New Hampshire, Lawrence, KS 66044 (913) 842-5795
- USS Hadley DD-774** (May-Nashville, TN) Doug Aitken, 37 Bower Pl., Danville, CA 94526 (415) 837-8630
- USS Hailey DD-556** (May-Las Vegas) Bill Haid, 2525 Bolton Boone Dr., #1804, Desoto, TX 75115 (214) 298-5177
- USS Hamul AK 30/ AD 20 (1941-42)** (Fall-Charleston, SC) Frank Krasovich, 1012 Bordentown Ave., Parlin, NJ 08859 (201) 721-4897
- USS Higbee DD-806** (Mar-Buena Park, CA) Jim Huffman, 8311 San Marino Dr., Buena Park, CA 90620 (714) 527-8026
- USS Hobby DD-610 (1942-45)** (Oct-Norfolk, VA) George Watts, 22261 Platino, Mission Viejo, CA 91691 (714) 768-4890
- USS Horace A. Bass APD-124** (May-Sanford, FL) Horace Paul, 2099 S. Oregon Ave., Sanford, FL 32771 (407) 322-7879
- USS Irwin DD-794** (May-San Jose, CA) Jack Schroeder, 5612 Harvard Dr., San Jose, CA 95118 (408) 266-3827
- USS Jupiter AVS-8** (Apr-New Iberia, LA) Howard Woodruff, 5704 Old Jeanerette Rd., New Iberia, LA 70560 (318) 365-4076
- USS Kuala Gulf CVE-108** (Apr-Hickory, NC) Larry Eckard, Box 5145, Hickory, NC 28603 (704) 256-6274
- USS Lander APA-178** (Apr-Atlanta) Serge Logan, 3745 Cheyenne Ct., Racine, WI 53404
- USS LCI (R) 337** (June-Chicago) Wayne Smith, 21491 Michigan Ave., Port Charlotte, FL 33952 (813) 624-0591
- USS LCS (L) 3-54** (Sept-Jacksonville, FL) Jim Hyman, 18 Eakman Dr., Garnerville, NY 10923 (914) 947-1420
- USS Long Island CVE-1** (May-New Orleans) John Koehl, 9770 Rockton Circle W., New Orleans, LA 70127 (504) 242-2539
- USS LST-653 (WWII)** (May-Niagara Falls, NY) Charlie Price, 375 Main St., Goshen, NY 10924 (914) 294-7091
- USS LST 833** (Apr-Savannah, GA) Grover Shealy, 29 4th Ave., Atlantic Highlands, NJ 07716 (201) 291-9122
- USS Luce DLG-7 (1971 Recomm. Crew)** (May) R.E. Ackerman, 4511 Elite Dr., Orlando, FL 32822 (407) 275-0990
- USS Mahan DD-364/DLG-11/DDG-42 Officers** (June-Ocean City, MD) Ted Painter, 11 Ames St., Onancock, VA 23417 (804) 787-7570
- USS Montrose LPA-212** (Oct-Gettysburg, PA) Robert Faunt Jr., 510 Rake Factory Rd., Biglerville, PA 17307 (717) 677-6016
- USS Murray DD/DDE-576** (Apr-Baton Rouge, LA) G. Worley, 10688 Browning, Baton Rouge, LA 70815 (504) 924-3075
- USS Pakana ATF-108 (WWII)** (Jan-Newport Beach, CA) Jim Kopp, 324 Nancy Way, La Canada, CA 91011 (818) 790-2047
- USS Pitt APA-223** (Fall) George Langr, 17 W. Main St., Johnston, NY 12095
- USS Purdy DD-734** (May-Hickory, NC) Larry Eckard, Box 5145, Hickory, NC 28603 (704) 256-6274
- USS Ranger CV-4** (Aug-Norfolk, VA) George Kingston, 2148 Clubhouse Dr., Lillian, AL 36549 (205) 962-2171
- USS SC-511** (July-Chattanooga, TN) M.H. Knauss, 225 Brookside Dr., Lindale, TX 75771 (214) 882-5063
- USS Silverstein DE-534** (Aug-Las Vegas) James Denver, 63 Eleanor Rd., Springfield, MA 01108 (413) 734-0171
- USS Stack DD-406** (Mar-Kissimmee, FL) J.B. Lytle, 17435 W. Longlake, Alpena, MI 49707 (517) 595-2978
- USS Tarawa CVA/CVS-40** (Apr-Hickory, NC) Larry Eckard, Box 5145, Hickory, NC 28603 (704) 256-6274
- USS Terry DD-513** (Apr-Norfolk, VA) Helen Linn, 5370 S. Columbia, Reedley, CA 93654
- USS Trenton CL-11** (Aug-Olympia, WA) John Copeland, Box 893, Yelm, WA 98597 (206) 458-7220
- USS Tringa ASR-16** (May-Groton, CT) Homer Ford, (203) 546-6327

# VETERANS ALERT

**USS Wasatch AGC-9 (WWII)** (Aug-Norfolk, VA) Joseph Pampani, 533 Boesel Ave., Manville, NJ 08835 (201) 725-4198

**USS Wasp CV/CVA/CVS-18** (May-San Diego) Richard VanOver, 6584 Bunting Rd., Orchard Park, NY 14127

**USS Will Rogers SSBN-659** (Apr-New London, CT) T.J. Oman, S. 104 West, 20463 Tina Dr., Muskego, WI 53150 (414) 679-1934

**VF-14/53/141** (July-Myrtle Beach, SC) Harold Dolin, 9646 Hamilton Hills Dr., Fishers, IN 46038 (317) 849-0218

**VP-90** (Dec-NAS Glenview, IL) Ramon Firnstahl, 9478 Inver Grove Tr., Inver Grove Hts., MN 55076 (612) 455-5257

**VPB-201 (Panama/1945)** (Apr-Las Vegas) E.L. Luedeke, Box 207, Needville, TX 77461 (409) 793-4318

**VRC-50** (Summer-Orlando, FL) Clint Staples, 6910 Windstream Terr., Orlando, FL 32818 (407) 299-8428

**VS-21** (Aug-San Diego) Alfred Novacek, Box 44, Dwight, NE 68635 (402) 566-2425

**WAVES NASD, Pearl Harbor/Washington, DC (WWII)** (June-Divernon, IL) Betsey Murphy, Rt. 1, Box 83, Divernon, IL 62530 (217) 628-9030

Waters, Box 7240, Freeport, NY 11520 (718) 990-0741

**1st Marine Raider Bn.** (Feb-Quantico, VA) Irvin Reynolds, 9115 Marlboro Pike, #52, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

**6th Def. Bn. Midway** (June-Corpus Christie, TX) Ned Titlow, Box 7276, San Diego, CA 92167 (619) 222-8407

**9th Rec., C Co. (WWII)** (Sept-Canton, OH) Vince Petrella, 174 Hessenauer Dr., Galion, OH 44833

**11th Engr. Bn., 3rd Mar. Div.** (July-Chicago) Charles Luhan Jr., 5645 S. Sacramento Ave., Chicago, IL 60629

**Marine Night-Fighter Assn.** (May-Irving, TX) Tony Cangello, 26 Merry Rd., Newark, DE 19713 (302) 738-0878

**VMSB-343** (May-Greenville, NC) Glenn Kelley, 332 Lancelot Cr. N.E., Concord, NC 28025 (704) 786-1040

## Miscellaneous

**All Airborne Personnel** (Feb-Tucson, AZ) Donald Murphy, 9801 E. 33rd St., Tucson, AZ 85748 (602) 298-7890

**Iwo Jima Veterans** (Feb-Jackson, MS) Jim Westbrook, Rt. 10, Box 382, Vicksburg, MS 39180 (601) 636-1861

## LET'S GET TOGETHER

Notice of proposed reunions will be published on a first-come, first-served basis. Requests for inclusion must list the unit name, branch of service, contact name, address, including zip code and American Legion membership card number. Submit your request to: "Let's Get Together," The American Legion Magazine, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206

## Army

**60th Engr., C Co. (TRUST, Italy/1947-54)** John Bowman, 4537 Golf Park Dr., Lynchburg, VA 24502

**63rd QM Base Depot, HQ & HQ Co. (WWII)** E.D. Obrecht, 9639 Ralston, Houston, TX 77080

**67th AAA Gun Bn., C Btry.** Edward Letchman, 8148 3rd Ave. S., Birmingham, AL 35206

**127th General Hospital (WWII)** Noel Bailey, 1516 Alta Dr., Fort Worth, TX 76107 (817) 737-5714

**133rd General Hospital** Howard Andersen, 617 W. 10th St., Spencer, IA 51301 (712) 262-4428

**245th Tank Bn., 45th Inf. Div. (1950-54)** Charles Coursey, Box 1791, Lawton, OK 73502 (405) 355-3712

**279th Ord. Maint. AA Co. (WWII)** Virgil Bodenhamer, 19830 Weybridge, #101, Mt. Clemens, MI 48043 (313) 463-2397

**287th FA Observ. Bn. (Pacific/1943-45)** Mel Reese, 4531 N. 16th St., Ste 112, Phoenix, AZ 85016 (602) 279-9325

**328th FA Bn.** Earl Carlile, 302 Tejas Rd., Palestine, TX 75801

**406th Engr. Const. Bn., A Co. (1952-53)** Duane Erickson, Rt. 2, Box 83, Alpha, MN 56111 (507) 764-3529

**507th AAA AW Bn. (Misawa AFB)** Roger Abrahamson, HCR 67, Box 28, Onamia, MN 56359

**534th Amphib. Tractor Bn.** Daniel Carns, 501 Jefferson Ave., Jeannette, PA 15644 (412) 527-1663

**559th Ord. HM Tank Co. (WWII)** John Savage, 1 Parkwood Trail, Hampstead, NC 28443 (919) 270-4316

**562nd Ord. HMTK Co. (1943-46)** Jack White, 7102 NW 74 Place, Tamarac, FL 33321 (305) 722-6753

**718th Amphib. Tractor Bn. (WWII)** Norm Snider, 1049 Graham Rd., Venice, FL 34293

**793rd MP Bn., B Co. (1945-48/Germany)** William Burkhardt, Box 154, Springfield, OH 45501

**804th FA Bn., HQ Btry.** Will Doyon, 24 Stafford St., Plymouth, MA 02360 (508) 746-1352

**1255th Engr. (C) Bn. (WWII)** Alfred Babecki, 1405 Colony Rd., Oxon Hill, MD 20745

**1303rd Engr. Med. Detach. (WWII)** Jim Caldwell, 1732 Vallecito Dr., Hacienda Heights, CA 91745 (818) 333-6680

**1565th Ord. S&M Co. (Avn) (WWII)** Henry May, 3301 NW 32nd St., Lauderdale Lakes, FL 33309

**3348th GM TRK Co. (WWII)** Harold Zurbuchen, 211 Todd St., Verona, WI 53593 (608) 845-9676

**Engr. Tech. Intel. Teams 533, 557, 558 (Korea/1951-52)** George Waluff, Box 373, Marathon, FL 33050

**Vietnam Air Traffic Controller Assn.** William Palmer-gunner, Box 692, Penngrove, CA 94951 (707) 579-8592

## Navy

**22nd NCB (WWII)** Joseph Carlson, 1412 W. 55th St., Minneapolis, MN 55419 (612) 927-8321

**56th NCB (Guam/1944-45)** John Rightlen, 2557 W. Chester Pike, Broomall, PA 19008 (215) 356-8278

**Boot Camp Co. 572, San Diego (1944)** Eves Bouillion, Rt.1, Box 19, Erath, LA 70533 (318) 937-5121

**CASU-31** William Barnard, 541 Mc Morrow Dr., #1, Newport News, VA 23602

**CASU-49 (1944-45)** Howard Moss, Box 13206, S. Lake Tahoe, CA 95702

**CBMU-563** Carl Zeppone, 19 Dinallo St., South Hackensack, NJ 07606 (201) 489-2309

**Manicani Island, Philippines (1945-46)** Ray Karl, 603 S. Olds Blvd., Fairless Hills, PA 19030 (215) 945-3615

**NAS Melbourne, FL, Firehouse/Crash Crew (WWII)** Jack McKinley, 722 N. Main, Chariton, IA 50049

**NTC Bainbridge, Co. 3546 (1944)** Valton Ammons, 5004 Hiddenbrook Ct., McLeansville, NC 27301 (919) 621-0645

**NTC San Diego, Co. 231 (1951)** David Gray, Box 808, Mableton, GA 30059

**USS Ajax AR-6** K.L. Hokenson, Box 301, Oxford, MA 01540 (508) 248-5051

**USS Blue DD-744 (1946-47)** Bert Swartz, 21765 34 Viking Blvd. NE, Wyoming, MN 55092

**USS Davidson DE-1045** Don Tahrar, 1022 10th Ave. SE, Jamestown, ND 58401 (701) 252-4986

**USS Kearsarge CVA-33, IC/EM ratings (1955-58)** Kenneth McDaniel, 301 East Dr., Oak Ridge, TN 37830 (615) 482-4302

**USS Lapwing AVP-1** Sherley Eads, 3230 S. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46217 (317) 784-9490

**USS LCSL (C) 71 (1945-46)** William Wood, Box 1124, Saluda, VA 23149 (804) 758-5019

**USS LSM-185** John Pesko, 25039 US 12 W., #73, Sturgis, MI 49091 (616) 651-2505

**USS LSM-385 (WWII)** Walter Grayson, Box 791, Clayton, LA 71326

**USS-LST 311 (WWII)** Ted Papadakis, 164 Prospect St., Springfield, MA 01107 (413) 734-1506

**USS LST-334 (WWII)** Andrew Kresnocky, 1201 S. Lake Park Ave., Hobart, IN 46342 (219) 942-1511

**USS LST-532 (1950-54)** Fred Lawrence, 7025 Willowbrook Dr., Watertown, NY 13601 (315) 782-5919

**USS LST-1141** Jerry Madden, 1404 Holden Ave., Newport, AR 72112 (501) 523-3368

**USS Macon CA-132 (1950 Comm. Crew)** Ed Shelar, 1913 Natchez Ave., Bedford, TX 76022 (817) 571-3153

**USS Minotaur ARL-15 (1945-46/Okinawa)** William Grabowsky, 1414 Sunrise, Lot 20, Amarillo, TX 79104

**USS Mizar AF-12** Everette Johnson, 441 N. 12th Ave.,

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## Army Air Forces

**2nd Ferry Grp./2nd Foreign Trans. Grp. (WWII)** (Apr-Newark, CA) Temple Robinson, 5961 E. 18th St., Tucson, AZ 85711 (602) 747-4466

**45th HQ & HQ Sq./8th Air Serv. Sq., 5th AF (WWII)** (June-Brainerd, MN) Russ Morrison, 917 S. 7th St., Brainerd, MN 56401 (218) 829-7894

**66th Serv. Sq., 5th AF (WWII)** (Apr-Panama City, FL) John Sainola, 9 Auburn St., Babylon, NY 11704 (516) 587-2517

**349th Trp. Carrier Grp./23rd, 311th, 312th, 313th, 314th Sqs.** (June-Indianapolis) Max Johnson, 409 N. Colfax, Martinsville, IN 46151 (317) 342-3495

**599th S.A.W. Bn.** (Feb-New Orleans) Orlando Cerra, 412 Finin Rd., New Kensington, PA 15068 (412) 337-4031

**Convoy to Glasgow, Scotland via Dortha L. Dix AP-67** (Oct. 19, 1943) (Jan-Ephrata, WA) H.E. Harvey, Box 541, Ephrata, WA 98823-0541 (501) 754-3948

**Goose Bay AB, Labrador** (July-Goose Bay, Labrador) Carolyn Maybee, Box 644, Sta. A, Goose Bay, Labrador, AOP 1SO (709) 896-5431

## Air Force

**10th Serv. Sq.** (Feb-Pittsburgh) Alan McClure, 100 Maplewood Dr., Beaver, PA 15009 (412) 775-1561

**26th Fighter Sq.** (Jan-Vance AFB, OK) Pete Gretsche, 26th FTS, Vance AFB, Enid, OK 73705 (405) 249-7285

**71st Bomb Sq. (Laon, France)** (June-Eureka Springs, AR) Mack Bryant, Box 5176, Jackson, MS 39296 (601) 362-9155

**315th Ftr. Sq., 324th Ftr. Grp.** (May-Nashville, TN) Eugene Orlandi, 311 3rd St., E. Northport, NY 11731 (516) 368-9193

**328th Supply Sq.** (June-Grandview, MO) Ronald Williams, Box 2184, Gary, IN 46409 (219) 977-9629

**1550th ATTW/CCTW** (June-Albuquerque, NM) John Lucas, 1550 TTS, Kirtland AFB, NM 87117 (505) 844-1626

**Pilot Class 51-A** (Feb-Austin, TX) Wesley Mattonen, 3803 South Union, Independence, MO 64055 (816) 254-8862

**Postal Courier Assn.** (Sept-Colorado Springs, CO) Jim Foshee, 3509 Deer Trail, Temple, TX 76504 (817) 774-7303

**RAF Chicksands Alumni** (Jan-Washington) W. Grayson, Box 4053, Crofton, MD 21114 (703) 968-3452

**Selman Field (WWII)** (Apr-Monroe, LA) Swansea Kotz, Box 14962, Monroe, LA 71207 (318) 325-2998

**USAFSS/ESC COMSEC** (Feb-Washington) W. Grayson, Box 4053, Crofton, MD 21114 (703) 968-3452

## Marines

**1-3-7 Marines** (May-Orlando, FL) Melvin Robinson, 2818 Sixth Ave., Altoona, PA 16602 (814) 944-0706

**1st Bn., 26th Marines, B Co. (Khe Sanh/1968)** (Apr-Dayton, OH) Jim Champion, Rt. 2, Box 163A, Smithland, KY 42081 (502) 928-4598

**1st Marine Air Wing (Vietnam)** (Fall-Las Vegas) Rob



# ENCOURAGEMENT

Continued from page 31

who has lost a job for whatever reason my friend calls with words of encouragement and shares job openings out of his personal file of offers.

Picking up the phone and making a quick call is a small way to help but the good it creates goes a long way.

• *Share Personal Struggles and Victories.* A testimonial from someone who has overcome an adversity and turned a tragedy into a triumph is always a great source of encouragement.

For example, Virginia Wilcox Fajardo was left paralyzed by a spinal tumor. Prior to that she had been a vibrant, active woman. Nevertheless, she adjusted to her loss and continued to parent two daughters. In addition, she became interested in working with prisoners and taught creative writing classes at the penitentiary in her community. On one occasion a discouraged inmate named Waymon told her she "couldn't imagine what it is like to be in prison." Her reply, sent through the mail, is memorable:

"When you said I couldn't imagine what it is like to be in prison, I felt impelled to tell you that you are mistaken. When, at the age of 31, I awoke one day to find that I was completely paralyzed, I felt trapped—overwhelmed by a sense of being imprisoned in a body that would no longer allow me to run through a meadow or dance or carry my child in my arms.

"For a long time I lay there, struggling to come to terms with my infirmity, trying not to succumb to self-pity. I asked myself whether, in fact, life was worth living under such conditions, whether it might not be better to die. But then, one day it occurred to me there were still some options open. Would I smile when I saw my children again or would I weep? Would I rail against God or would I ask Him to strengthen my faith?

"I made a decision to turn my seemingly negative experiences into positive experiences, to look for ways to transcend my physical limitations by expanding my mental and spiritual boundaries... You can look at your bars or you can look through them. To some extent, Waymon, we are in this thing together."

• *Make Time To Visit.* A frequent complaint heard from those who face dif-

ficulties is a sense of isolation and abandonment from others. This is particularly true when there is a long-term illness such as cancer.

One woman, whose husband has a terminal condition, almost pleads with family, friends and neighbors to visit and simply "tell us what you've been doing. We'd love to hear about your trip or the kids. Tell us a few jokes or come by and let's talk politics. Believe me," she said, "anything you care to talk about will be wonderful to a couple of people who haven't seen a visitor in months."

• *Open A Door To Opportunity.* A few years ago a woman was routinely looking at items in a drugstore when the young clerk told her that he dreamed of someday building houses. He had no training, no money and no experience. Yet, he seemed so sincere and determined that the woman hired him to replace her decaying deck.

The job was relatively simple. All the young man had to do was remove old boards and lay new ones. However, he studied the deck for hours before he began working. The boards he laid never did quite fit, but he completed the job and the deck is still solid.

That woman lost track of the young man but recently they met at a social function. She did not recognize him but he spotted her immediately and tapped her on the shoulder. When she turned around she saw a confident-looking young man who identified himself as the one who built her deck. Now he was president of his own successful construction company. He wanted to thank her for giving him not just the opportunity to build a deck but for instilling confidence in him at a critical time.

Finally, the best thing about encouragement is its universal simplicity. Anyone can do it and everyone needs it. All it takes is a kind word or a small deed. The best time to start is now. ☐

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## TAPS

**Bert William Casselman**, MO Department Commander (1971-72), Department Vice Commander (1970-71).  
**John R. Hann**, CA Department Commander (1960-61).  
**Eugene L. Jackson**, TX Department Commander (1954-55), Department Vice Commander (1952-53).  
**Maynard W. Jensen**, NE Department Commander (1971-72).  
**Edwin O. Orleman**, National Executive Committeeman (1947-49), MT Department Commander (1945-46).  
**Rev. Arthur L. Rustad**, National Chaplain (1946-47), MN Department Chaplain (1937-39).  
**S.P. "Pete" Sahd**, NM Department Commander (1965-66), Department Vice Commander (1961-62).  
**Carl Edwin (Jack) Swank**, OK Alternate National Executive Committeeman (1969-73), Department Commander (1984-85), Department Vice Commander (1967-68).  
**Arnold E. Warren**, KY Department Vice Commander (1987-88).

# WELFARE TRAP

Continued from page 25

"workfare" programs involving job training and education have achieved only modest results. For example, a study by the Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation, a private think tank, found that most state welfare employment initiatives reduced case-loads by only 1 percent to 3 percent. Whatever the case, no one expects quick or easy solutions. As the largest bureaucracy in the country, the social welfare system inevitably is prone to foul-ups and abuse. Stories of fashionably attired people driving limousines to supermarkets with fistfuls of food stamps are legendary. But for others, it's a different story. Social Security Commissioner Gwendolyn S. King, testifying in Congress in April, said many people are not receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits because they don't know about them or are too confused by the 15-page application form which King called "mind-boggling." The SSI program provides up to \$386 a month for the blind, disabled or elderly poor. Various studies have concluded that as many as 50 percent of those eligible for SSI, or some 4.6 million individuals, are not participating.

Last spring, the late Mitch Snyder, self-appointed spokesman for the homeless, called on street people to burn their census forms to protest the government's alleged underestimating of their numbers. In frequent media interviews, Snyder put the homeless population as high as 6 million. A HUD study has estimated the number at no more than 300,000.

Not long ago, "Hunger in America" was all the rage of the media. A Harvard task force, for example, claimed 20 million people were going hungry, and a rescue campaign called "Hands Across America" was mounted. According to ABC correspondent Rebecca Chase, one TV network assigned a reporter to scour Mississippi for days to find hungry people to interview. But all the poor people the reporter could find were on food stamps. "Basically," concluded Chase, "it showed that our food stamp program is working pretty well."

Poverty itself also is subject to misinterpretation. Although some 13 percent of our population have incomes below the government's "poverty level,"

it does not take into account various welfare benefits that together assure most poor people adequate food, shelter and medical care. And the average American on welfare lives considerably better than the working poor of most other industrialized countries.

Often overlooked as well are the contributions of private U.S. charities. Nine of every 10 shelters for the homeless are operated by private volunteers. And "Habitat for Humanity," which concentrates on rebuilding slum areas, has enlisted more than 80,000 volunteers, including former President Jimmy Carter and his wife, Rosalyn.

Referring to what has been called the "poverty industry," Benjamin Ginsberg, author of *The Captive Public*, contends

that the welfare state keeps generating new constituencies for itself, thus creating the demand for what it wants to supply—increased services and dependency.

Nonetheless, the problems of poverty are all too real. Columbia University's National Center for Children in Poverty states that as recently as 1987 some 5 million American children under the age of 6—or nearly 1 in every 4—were living below the Census Bureau's poverty line. And last July, a study by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a private research center, said that nearly half the nation's black and Hispanic families cannot find affordable housing.

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## **WELFARE TRAP**

*Continued from page 45*

Still, there also are encouraging signs. More than one dozen states began job training and education programs for welfare recipients months before Congress passed its reform bill. Last summer in Bridgeport, Conn., 13 adults on welfare graduated from an eight-week pre-training course called "*La Oportunidad*." One of the graduates was Carmen Colon, a 50-year-old mother of nine who has spent the last 23 years on welfare. She cried with joy on receiving her diploma and joined the others in singing the class song, "*Sintiendome Bien*," "Feeling Good."

Said Joyce A. Thomas, manager of Bridgeport Jobs, the private industry group that operates the program with state funds, "You have to teach people that they have a right to control their destinies, that the dependency lies within themselves." According to Stuart Butler and Anna Kondratas, authors of "*Out of the Poverty Trap: A Conservative Strategy for Welfare Reform*," published by Heritage Foundation, the only real progress against poverty comes when people are allowed to take control of their own lives. At the same time, the authors argue, "Poverty in the United States today is inextricably intertwined with family structure and the economic viability of families. Broken families lead to poverty. Two-parent families have a 7 percent poverty rate, as against 35 percent for those headed by women."

One way to strengthen the family, writes Butler and Kondratas, is to reform the tax code. "It is absurd for us to have a system that tries to squeeze taxes out of the working poor, and then spends those same taxes on others who will not work."

Another pro-family move, according to the authors, would be to "base welfare programs on the assumption that parents are responsible for their own actions and those of their children."

Emphasizing the role of the community in fighting poverty, Butler and Kondratas point to initiatives in housing and education. Wracked with crime, drug use, vandalism and welfare dependency, a dozen or so public housing projects—notably Kenilworth Courts in the District of Columbia, Bromley-Heath in Boston and Cochran Gardens in St. Louis—sought and received the

right to be run by the tenants. And their success was astounding. For example, after about eight years under tenant management, "the Cochran management association had created 350 jobs, primarily for residents, by establishing its own maintenance teams, day care centers, a catering service, a neighborhood shopping mall, and a company to install cable television connections in public housing through the city," said Butler and Kondratas.

Similar results have been seen at Kenilworth Courts. In 1982, after two years of going without hot water, a group of tenants took over management of the D.C. complex. "By 1984," related Butler and Kondratas, "the project was running a surplus (in rent collections). When board members presented the housing authority that year with a check instead of requesting another subsidy, city housing officials had no idea how to process the check!"

HUD Secretary Jack Kemp has proposed expanding such successful ventures nationwide. Known as HOPE—Homeownership and Opportunity for People Everywhere—the program is designed to give low-income residents a personal stake in the well-being of their communities and an opportunity to escape welfare dependence through economic development. Kemp also is pushing the creation of inner-city "enterprise zones" by private entrepreneurs and the government to revitalize the nation's blighted slum neighborhoods.

On the education front, there is a clear connection between inadequate schooling and poverty. Statistics reveal that the poverty rate for high school graduates is 9.6 percent, but for those with less education, the poverty rate soars to 21 percent. And about half of the nation's adult poor have less than a secondary school education.

In the final analysis, the success of welfare reforms will depend on mutual responsibility and cooperation. Defending the new program as a good step, Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan of New York said: "Whether other people get in the spirit of this legislation and try to make it work or sit around and complain about it remains to be seen. But there will not be another bill in this century, so let's do the best thing for the children."

Such sentiments have bipartisan support. In signing the reform bill two years ago, President Reagan asked public aid recipients to "share in taking responsibility for your life and for the lives of the children you bring into this world." □

# COURTS

Continued from page 23

express an opinion. I can't believe they mean that. I think it's a very unfortunate decision. I think the court changed the meaning of the First Amendment. We had three of the most liberal justices in our history — Earl Warren, Hugo Black, who called himself a First Amendment Absolutist, and Abe Fortas. They said the government can, of course, prevent the physical desecration of the flag. If it did so, it would not violate the First Amendment. So what we see here is a considerable shift from the old law.

**Q.** How do you account for that shift?

**A.** I do not know. There are a couple of people who voted in the majority in that case whose votes I cannot explain — Justice Scalia and Justice Kennedy. I was very puzzled by their joining the majority and I can't believe they really accept the argument that Justice Brennan made for the majority. I wish they had written concurring opinions to explain why they did what they did.

**Q.** Is there a split between what the majority of the people believe and want and what they're getting?

**A.** A lot of people aren't fully aware of what they're getting. Sometimes a particular issue hits a nerve, but a lot of times they aren't paying enough attention to the courts and don't quite realize how much power the courts have taken on. A lot of people assume if there's a constitutional decision it must come out of the Constitution. They don't realize that it often doesn't.

**Q.** Does this mean that strict interpretation of the Constitution has become impossible?

**A.** No, I don't think it's become impossible. I think it's going to require a lot of discussion and education and political campaigning to get the kinds of people on the court who will interpret the Constitution instead of making it up.

**Q.** If these trends continue into the future, what kind of country and society will we be living in 25 years or 50 years from now?

**A.** That's hard to say. The courts are now taking on subjects that it was unthinkable they would take on when I graduated from law school. The abor-

tion issue is the primary one that everybody knows about. The reapportionment of state legislatures, the abortion issue, the flag-burning issue — some of the judges taking over mental hospitals, police departments, school systems, jail systems and so forth. It was unheard of even 20 years ago and now it's common. Whether that kind of expansion of power will continue, I don't know. But if it does, more and more of our lives will be governed by unelected judges rather than by elected representatives.

**Q.** Would you comment on social and political attitudes of law profes-

sors in our colleges and universities?

**A.** Law professors these days are like university faculties, generally. They are well to the left of the American center. I doubt, for example, you would find 10 to 15 percent of professors in prestigious universities who voted for Reagan. In some schools, none.

**Q.** Is the same trend apparent in members of the media?

**A.** All the surveys show that's true. The survey I recall a couple of years back was that in every one of the last six presidential elections, the media

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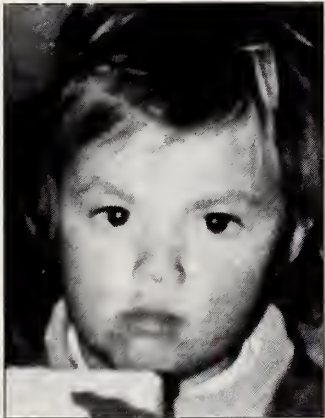
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## COURTS

*Continued from page 47*

voted over 80 percent for the Democratic candidate every time.

**Q.** Are you a conservative?

**A.** Yes, I am. But a *New York Times* reporter asked me that and I said, "What do you mean by that? There are all kinds of conservatives running around and some of them I'm not like." She then printed that I denied I was a conservative, which is not true.

**Q.** What is the difference between a conservative and a liberal?

**A.** It's a difference in vision of human nature and the possibilities of changing society and people. I think conservatives, by and large, are for traditional values. They are somewhat skeptical of attempts by government to change basic human patterns. Government can do that and sometimes becomes tyrannical in the attempt. I think liberals are much more optimistic about the power of government to improve things endlessly. They are much less wary of tyrannical tendencies that lie in that.

**Q.** How would you describe your confirmation hearings?

**A.** A fiasco. The hearings weren't bad; it was the political campaign that was being waged around the country outside the hearing room. It consisted of systematic and heavily advertised misrepresentations of my record and what I had said and done.

**Q.** What are some other examples of distortions of your record in the campaign against your confirmation?

**A.** Planned Parenthood had a wonderful one. They had a full-page ad that said, among other things, that I had ruled that a local zoning board could prevent a grandmother from living with her grandchildren because she wasn't part of the nuclear family. The case they were talking about was *Moore v. City of East Cleveland*. I was surprised to learn I had ruled against the grandmother because the case didn't go through my court, it came from a court in Ohio, a state court, and went to the U.S. Supreme Court and was decided five years before I even became a judge. I never saw that case, never wrote about it, never talked about it.

**Q.** Why were these people so vio-

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**lently opposed to your confirmation?**

**A.** There were two reasons. One was it was a chance to defeat Ronald Reagan, which they hadn't had much success doing up to that point. But he was coming to the end of his term and had been weakened on Capitol Hill by the Iran-Contra controversy. The Republicans had lost the Senate, so it was an ideal time to deal Reagan a defeat. In addition to that, they knew from my writings that I would never give them their agenda if it wasn't in the Constitution. They would rather take their chances with an unknown than with somebody they were sure was not going to give them their agenda.

**Q.** What is the philosophy of law and constitutional interpretation of those who would deny your confirmation? Is it as simple as liberal-versus-conservative views?

**A.** It is now, in a sense. But the truth is that the tendency to use the Constitution to read in political agenda is not uniquely a liberal sin. Conservatives have done it in the past. Prior to 1937, a conservative activist court was reading conservative principles into the Constitution. Right now, it's a liberal matter because the liberal cultural philosophy is in the ascendancy.

**Q.** Why was Sen. Edward M. Kennedy a leader in the attacks which led to your not being confirmed to the court?

**A.** I think he certainly was the leader. He spent the summer, according to his own interview in a newspaper, making phone calls all over the country. He contacted labor leaders and civil rights leaders and tried to frighten the black community by telling them I was going to take away their civil liberties. That is nonsense and he must have known it was nonsense. Perhaps he thought that he was going to have more of a say in who the nominee was and was dismayed to learn that he wasn't. I really don't know why, except that he has a lot of connections to the liberal

left. Maybe they came to him and asked him to organize it and he did.

**Q.** It seems there was a great backlash against the way you were treated in the hearings. Do you think it worked against Kennedy and his supporters?

**A.** Many people were disgusted with them, I know that. I've traveled the country a lot since that episode, lecturing and on a book tour, and I get a lot of that kind of reaction around the country . . . a lot of anger. I don't know if it hurt Kennedy. He's solidly entrenched in Massachusetts and the left needs him, so no matter what he does they're with him.

**Q.** What does the political campaign against your confirmation promise for the future of the nomination process?

**A.** That's hard to say. I think that depends in part upon whether the presidency and the Senate are held by different political parties. I think our political parties are polarized on the issue of what kinds of judges we should have, just as they are on many other issues. If we continue to have a Republican President, like George Bush, whose nominees have looked very much like Reagan's nominees to various courts, and we continue to have a Senate, and particularly a Senate Judiciary Committee, dominated by people to the left of the American center, then I think we may see future extravaganzas like that one.

**Q.** Your book is called *The Tempting of America*. What is the significance of the title?

**A.** The title refers to the process by which the American people are tempted to give up areas of democratic choices on the premise that wise judges will know how to govern them better than they know how to govern themselves.

**Q.** What is the thrust of the book?

**A.** The book is intended to show where the courts and the theorists of the law schools stand on the basic issue of the division between self-government and judicial government. It then makes the argument that the preservation of our system of government and our freedoms can be accomplished only if courts confine themselves to the understanding of the Constitution's principles by those who made the Constitution law. Any court that departs from the original understanding is not interpreting the Constitution, but making it up. ☐

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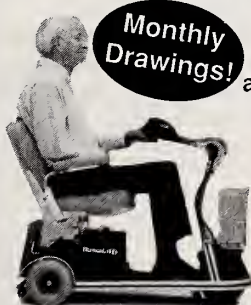
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# AGENT ORANGE

Continued from page 18

have their blood tested for levels of dioxin. VA must be prepared to (1) respond to those requests; and (2), if they do provide veterans with blood tests, to interpret results. *It is important that testimony and other public comments not associate the measurement of dioxin in blood with causation....*"

The House committee concluded that the federal government had "suppressed or minimized findings" of ill health effects among Vietnam veterans that could be linked to Agent Orange exposure.

The committee recommended that Congress mandate the creation of an accurate Agent Orange exposure index and an independent study be conducted by a private organization. It further recommended that the White House be barred from interfering with all other federal scientific research.

"The White House made crucial decisions affecting the course of CDC's Agent Orange research and outcome,"

the report concluded. "This kind of political interference is inappropriate and casts doubts on the integrity and credibility of federal research."

Members of the House committee were not unanimous in supporting the 39-page report. Dissenters accused members of the investigating group, the Human Resources subcommittee, of launching an "ideological assault upon a Republican White House with which it has never agreed." Also, the dissenters noted in their own report that enough evidence existed to show that the Agent Orange study was cancelled on scientific grounds.

The dissenting view in the report also responded to allegations of a White House cover-up: "Next, we find it totally implausible for the White House to mastermind a cover-up on its own when Congress was intimately involved in the Agent Orange proceedings since their inception.... Veterans deserve much better than what this report seeks to offer."

Other highly credible experts recently have voiced concerns about the handling of the Agent Orange study, including retired Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Elmo R. Zumwalt, a special assistant to VA Secretary Derwinski

who delivered a searing report to the VA Secretary last May that urged him to reconsider awarding compensation to Vietnam veterans suffering from various illnesses and conditions. Zumwalt, who ordered Agent Orange spray missions when he commanded naval forces in Vietnam, has said that benefit of the doubt about the number of cancers linked to dioxin weighed in favor of Vietnam veterans.

Zumwalt's review of various Agent Orange studies led him to believe that 28 different health effects are as likely as not related to Agent Orange exposure.

"I did something the VA's Committee on Environmental Hazards did not do," Zumwalt told Legionnaires at the 1990 National Convention in Indianapolis. "I looked at the existing animal studies. If I was Secretary of Veterans Affairs, I'd conclude that these diseases are connected to Agent Orange exposure."

In his report last spring, Zumwalt described the VA committee's work as demonstrating a "disturbing bias" (a related story appeared in the August issue of THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE), and called for the dismissal of the members of the group.

MEANWHILE, The American Legion lawsuit is still in the preliminary stages and, at press time, no initial hearings have been scheduled for the case, which was filed in U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C.

"Our position always has been that the government owe up to its responsibility and conduct a valid study that examines the health effects of Agent Orange exposure," Turner said. "Any diseases linked to the herbicide are the same as getting wounded or injured while serving the nation. And there can be no doubt about it. Agent Orange was a weapon of war—we just don't know how many thousands of American casualties there are because of their exposure to Agent Orange."

—Joe Stuteville.

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# NEW CAREERS

Continued from page 21

to have something to fall back on." His friends aren't aware that Branchaud studied piano for 10 years. He has such a good sense of musical pitch that he can hear and identify notes when someone taps one of the pieces of wood used to rebuild an old grand. He believes he's finally in the right business.

Other students left jobs that weren't as secure as Branchaud's. For them, as for the earliest of the North Bennet students a century ago, the school is a protective port.

Barbara Adams Hebard, 38, for example, worked in the fraud department of an insurance company. She learned to live with outrageous claims. But she found it more difficult to contend with written death threats, and with people who brandished shotguns, to try to force her to pay bogus claims.

Today, she's found more serene surroundings. She's learning to bind rare books in a three-year-old program at the school. Her first project was to put a new leather cover on a recently printed copy of a medieval classic, *The Rule of St. Benedict*. Hebard doesn't expect to make a fortune; beginning book binders earn \$18,000 to \$20,000 a year. More important than the income, she expects to leave an important legacy for the future. The book that takes her about three weeks to bind will probably survive repeated readings for at least the next four centuries.

Others were driven back to school by medical problems. For Joe Calnan, 42, the crisis was a life-threatening accident in 1970. From the mid-1960s, Calnan had operated bulldozers. He had a reputation for his "light touch" and could make surgically clean cuts to specifications as he shaved soil for roads or new buildings. After he enlisted in the Army in 1968, he was sent to Vietnam. On the way, the Army pulled him off the plane in Korea because of a need for engineers. He spent almost two years helping to build roads, schools and other projects. Then one day in 1970, his bulldozer rolled over. When he awoke a week later, doctors told him two vertebrae had been crushed and he would never operate a bulldozer again. Back in the states, Calnan began his new career by fixing watches in a friend's shop in Walpole, Mass. But he found watch work repetitive, and he entered North Bennet to

learn the broader field of jewelry making and repair.

Today, towering over a workbench that glimmers with small flashes from precious metals, Joe Calnan has found another way to use his light touch. He teaches students how to make tiny pieces of jewelry.

"I have good balance, so I can tell by feel how to tighten the setting for a stone." About 13 years ago, he returned to North Bennet to become a teacher, to help others craft new lives the way he did.

His students and others at this school are much in demand, according to Ginny Burnham, director of student services, who answers about 20 calls a week from potential employers. Hot job markets include carpentry, furniture making, jewelry making and piano tuning and repair. "A lot of the callers these days say they just can't find people to do the craft jobs," Burnham said. At least 84 percent of the graduates find work immediately, and many of the rest eventually enter the field for which they've been trained. Burnham guesses that almost all the new crafts workers are more satisfied in their jobs than in what they did before.

Consider, for example, the story of Duncan H. Burns. He was a 44-year-

old gunsmith with the Harrington and Richardson Firearms company in Massachusetts. The firm went bankrupt in 1985. Two years later, a graduate of the North Bennet locksmith program, he went into business for himself, with an office in his home and his own van. Today he works up to 70 hours a week. His most satisfying moment came recently after he answered a call that two youngsters, aged 3 and 1½, had locked themselves in a van. It wasn't an easy door lock, Burns said. He had to recall some of his advanced training under teacher Vic Swanson, who had been chief locksmith for 30 years at Harvard University before joining the faculty at North Bennet. Swanson had seen everything. The university has about 98,000 keys and 130,000 locks in 350 buildings.

Burns' education at North Bennet paid off. After a grueling five minutes of picking, the door opened, and the crying children spilled out into their mother's arms. "It made all the schooling worthwhile," Burns said. □

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## WARRIORS

Continued from page 35

Department, an official who spoke last winter on the condition of anonymity said, "Somehow the United States has to let it be known which countries we think have chemical weapons. The time just isn't right yet because it will give away intelligence sources."

Nonetheless, testimony in 1989 to the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs did identify Cuba as one of many countries that has used chemical weapons since the Geneva Protocol of 1925 was signed. This agreement prohibited the use of chemical and biological weapons in warfare. Other countries included in the same testimony involved: Manchuria, Italy, Spain, Japan, Germany, Poland, China, France, Israel, Greece, Egypt, Iraq (which became a signatory on Sept. 8, 1931), Portugal, Angola, Rhodesia, Laos, Vietnam, Soviet Union, Iran and Libya.

In the United States, Congress waffled for a half century before ratifying the Geneva Protocol. Then, in World War II, the United States voluntarily implemented an even more stringent chemical arms policy that prohibited U.S. first-use of chemical weapons. In 1969, this policy was extended to include non-lethal incapacitating agents. It also rejected all methods of biological warfare and prohibited the manufacture of chemical and biological weapons in the United States. Six years later, amid complaints of defoliant sprays and tear gas used in Vietnam, the first-use of non-lethal chemicals in warfare was prohibited. None of these forbade the use of herbicides or riot-control gasses.

Strictly enforced, these new policies caused severe cuts in chemical defense budgets, mothballed chemical arms factories, crippled research programs and nearly destroyed the U.S. Army Chemical Corp.

Watching from the sidelines, more vigilant countries took rein. For instance, military analysts report that the Soviet Union did not give chemical programs high priority until the early 1970s, after the United States abandoned its own chemical weapons production.

According to Joseph J. Vervier, technical director at the U.S. Army Chemical Research, Development and Engineering Center (CRDEC), located

at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., the Pentagon was alerted to modern chemical expansion only after equipment captured during the 1967 Arab-Israeli War showed Egyptian army vehicles were fitted with ventilation systems to protect soldiers from lethal agents. U.S. track vehicles had no such equipment then; and, this holds true today.

At the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense (AMRICD), also located at Aberdeen, research projects shifted with reports that a blister agent called mustard was being used in the Iran-Iraq War. Reports indicated that soldiers, wearing only thin cotton clothes, were dying from radiation-like burns that blistered both their skin and their lungs. Michael A. Dunn, commanding officer of AMRICD, said the mustard gas research received a priority status "because no significant improvements had been made in treating mustard injuries since the agent was first used in World War I."

At the same time, research efforts to protect against biological agents were also infused with a sense of urgency. "Some of the most potent substances known to man are really biological agents," said Col. David L. Huxsoll, commanding officer of the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute Of Infectious Diseases (USMRIID) at Fort Detrick, Md. Yet, much of the groundwork here was lost "for approximately 10 years after the program was disassembled in 1969, said Huxsoll. "It didn't take off again until the early 1980s." Considering that getting a new drug, or vaccine on line can take up to 14 years, it's difficult to measure the cost of the setback.

Yet the devastating list of biological threats, especially the emerging molecular genetics, toxins, sleep inducers and behavior modifiers made it "clearly impractical to attempt to study each and every toxin," said Huxsoll. "Rather, a program has been designed which is flexible enough to accommodate new threats rapidly."

By the late '80s, the vulnerability gap has closed to a crack as training followed research and development's about-face.

Recruits from Hawaii to New Jersey were taught how to wear the new charcoal-lined suits, masks and ancillary equipment and how to inject themselves with an antidote if they were exposed to a nerve agent. U.S. infantrymen stationed in Germany and Korea received advanced training while wearing chemical uniforms and pilots learned to fly while wearing protective masks. At Fort McClellan, Ala., chem-

ical officers gained confidence in their protective equipment, practicing detection and decontamination drills in chambers with real nerve agents.

Commanding officers admitted, however, that faced with mounting burdens to train against all types of attack, chemical warfare preparedness was often a low priority.

"In terms of training with something that is odorless, tasteless and colorless," said Col. Harvey D. Watson, commander of the 197th Infantry Brigade at Fort Benning, Ga., "we haven't figured out how to do that."

"It's hard to tell where we are in NBC (nuclear, biological, chemical) training because there are so few opportunities for a true test," said Watson, commander of the Army's largest, separate mechanized brigade.

Eighteen months after Watson's comments, U.S. troops found themselves in the Persian Gulf, staring down the poisoned barrels of the Iraqi army.

Concern at the State Department goes beyond the chemical threat.

"The problem is," said a State Department administrator, "look at what we've got. With the exception of a few folks who actually heard live fire in either Grenada or Panama, you have a largely unbloodied American army.... There's an enormous range of unknowns. One multiplier of those unknowns is the fact that there is a very real threat that chemical weapons will be engaged. But the point is, you've simply got to depend on the fact that they've been well-informed of the threat and they've been well-trained."

"I don't have any evidence on this, but I would be willing to bet that the average time required for the average private in the infantry to don his chemical gear in those units deployed in the Saudi Arabian peninsula has decreased considerably since they got there." He said the circumstances reminded him of Benjamin Franklin's quote: "The prospect of hanging focuses man's mind remarkably."

In 1987, the United States ended its 18-year chemical weapons production moratorium and began producing new 155mm artillery shells armed with binary nerve gas and continued apace with plans to manufacture a binary bomb called the "Big-Eye" and chemical warheads for a Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS). Later that year, the Soviet Union announced it would no longer manufacture chemical weapons.

Still, the United States tenaciously continued to fill its chemical protection cupboards with new masks, detectors, protective clothes, vaccines, antidotes,

air filters, entry-exit and information systems, and alarms.

According to a State Department source, if Iraq did employ chemical weapons, the United States would be permitted legally to retaliate with its own chemical arsenal.

Despite the current U.S. chemical demilitarization plan, America's unitary (warheads filled with a single lethal agent) chemical stockpile is reportedly ample and includes both artillery and aerial-delivered weapons. The majority of these weapons are targeted for destruction under the on-site demilitarization program.

The State Department source said selected stocks from the U.S. unitary chemical stockpile of nerve agents could be air shipped from locations in the United States to the Persian Gulf by specially trained Army personnel only after the aircraft was certified that it was up-to-date on all its maintenance, the same procedures as those required to move a nuclear weapon.

In addition to unitary weapons, the new, more limited generation of binary weapons, warheads that contain two non-lethal chemical agents that are not deadly until mixed, is another alternative.

No one can deny that there will be

casualties of a different kind if a chemical confrontation erupts, but today's protection equipment has been tested with actual agents to prove that, when used properly, it can save lives. "We've spent a lot of money on protective gear in the last decade," a State Department official said. "(It) is very expensive."

In the spectrum of biological agents, a review conference of the Biological Warfare Convention is scheduled for June 1991. This is expected to be a more difficult treaty to negotiate because challenge inspections are not built in. A State Department official last winter said, "It's a very loose treaty." Treaty negotiators will continue their decades-long push for a worldwide ban of all chemical and biological weapons.

Said the CIA's Webster: "We have to find a means of blocking access to the chemicals and to the technology and to slow it down, until the full weight of the Soviet and American pressure, by example, can lead the world to elimination of this kind of deadly warfare."

At Helsinki, Bush and Gorbachev said when the Iraqi crisis ends they will work together on a plan for regional stability in the Middle East. With this commitment, the super powers may finally bury chemical weapons forever. □

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# HEALTH-CARE

Continued from page 29

ever, is to scrap the present system entirely and adopt a Canadian-style national-health program. In other words, socialize medicine. In Canada, the government controls health care. Physicians are self-employed but receive virtually all their income from the government in payment for services performed. Hospitals get an annual operating allowance. Each Canadian citizen receives a card entitling him or her to free health care. Patients never see a bill, and insurance companies are essentially nonexistent. Everyone receives the same kind of health care. Taxes fund the program.

Although the word *socialism* often sticks in American throats, support is growing for a Canadian-like system in this country. In 1987, a Gallup poll found that 63 percent of Americans thought the United States should develop a government-funded national health service. Surprisingly, a group of 2,500 doctors named Physicians for a National Health Program (PNHP) is now championing that cause.

The American Medical Association (AMA), however, strongly opposes the idea of switching to a Canadian-style system. "Sure, our health program has problems, but it certainly is fixable," said William Jacott, a family physician and AMA spokesman.

According to the AMA, the Canadian system suffers from long waits for some surgery, crowded hospitals, and shortages of high-tech equipment. Some Canadians have had to wait a year for a coronary bypass operation, and a few have died before their turns arrived. "Americans will not settle for rationed care and limited access," said James Todd, AMA's senior deputy executive vice president.

Proponents of a universal system point out, however, that the United States already rations health care, not on a first-come-first-served basis, but by the ability to pay. They also say that many problems in Canada and elsewhere are a function of the health budget, not the system that delivers it. For example, Canada provides health care to virtually all its citizens with per capita spending 30 percent less than the United States, which does not have universal coverage.

In the end, the debate hinges on one crucial question, Is health care a right or a privilege? The controversy is just starting to heat up. ☐

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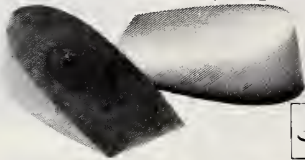
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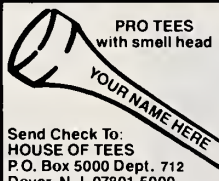
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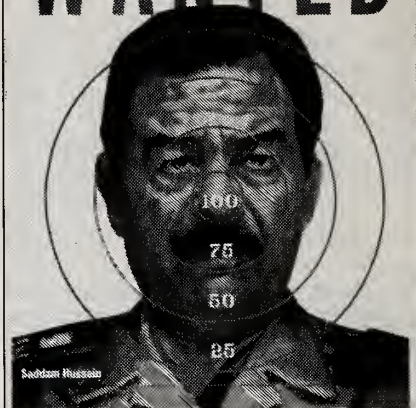
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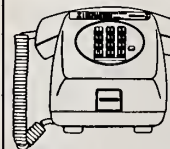
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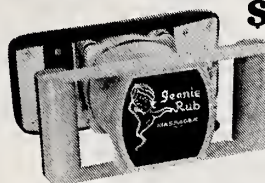
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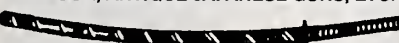
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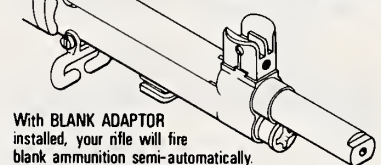
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## Campaign Tale

Campaigning can really be tiring. One politician was so frazzled, he started kissing hands and shaking babies.

## Read My Suds

"It's just not fair," one buddy lamented to another in the corner bar. "High taxes have driven me to drink, so now they're taxing beer."

## Family Flower

"I come from a very shy family," one woman quietly commented. "In fact, my ancestors sailed over on the Wallflower."

## Meating Of Minds

"My doctor told me to cut down on red meat," one friend told another.

"Well, were you able to do it?"

"Of course. I stopped putting ketchup on my hamburgers."

## Body Language

When you have aches and pains, it's because your body is trying to tell you something. As you get older, your body becomes more talkative.

## Great Expectations

Pregnant executives have it hard. It's not easy being in management and labor at the same time.

## Same Size

After squeezing into a dress, a woman asked the salesperson, "Do you have one a little larger in the same size?"

## Economic Anatomy

"I'm a walking economy," groaned one man. "My hairline's in a recession; my waist is a victim of inflation, and together they're putting me in a deep depression."

## Stripped Gears

"I tried life in the fast lane," said grandpa from his rocking chair. "But I got run over."

## Double Talk

Politicians are often misunderstood because it's not easy to talk and say nothing at the same time.

## Tanks A Lot

Today, to raise enough money to fill a gas tank, some people have to sell their cars.

## Bookworms

"The auditor found some inconsistencies with our books," a vice president reported to the company president.

"What did he find inconsistent?" the president asked.

"He said it's inconsistent we're still in business."

## Palm Trick

"I was surprised, but a palm reader gave me some very practical advice," said Fred.

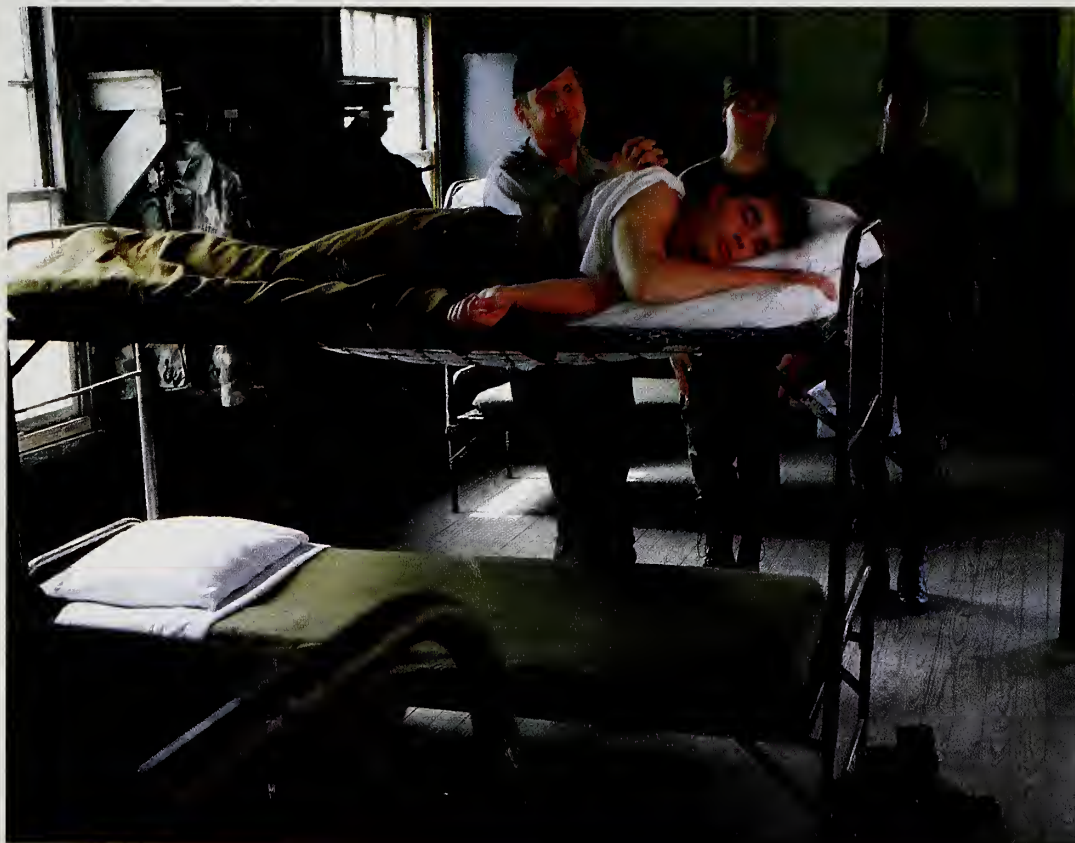
"What did she tell you?" George asked.

"She said, 'Quit biting your nails.'"



*"It's a sponge cake. I sponged the eggs from Mrs. Brown, the flour from Mrs. Jones and the milk from Mrs. Smith."*

# ***REMEMBER THE FIRST TIME YOU WERE LATE FOR WORK?***



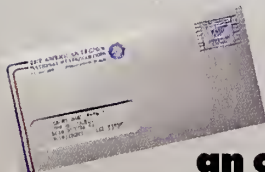
It's 0500 hours. You were up late. So you just roll over and drift back into a peaceful sleep. After all, it's a free Country. Right?

Most people have never tried to explain to a drill sergeant why they decided to "sleep in" when everyone else was working. If they tried it, they would learn something real fast . . . there are times when discussion about personal freedom is not appropriate.

Some would have us believe that there are no obligations to citizenship in a free Nation. That personal freedom is everything. But as you think about renewing your membership this year, consider this:

As veterans, we once gave up all our personal freedoms to defend the rights of others. We were separated from our families for years. We experienced the terror and pain of watching friends fall in combat.

We learned the hard way that freedom is not free. But, who will teach our children that fact if we do not?



**Renew your membership today  
... because doing nothing is not  
an option.**



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